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SUPERSOCCER

AUSTRALIA'S BEST SELLING FOOTBALL WEEKLY

CULINA'S FAIRY TALE RIDE

by Bruce Campbell

IT WAS A weekend of high drama in Australian soccer when even the events on the field seemed to take back stage.

Soccer Australia chairman Tony Labbozzetta survived a massive challenge to his leadership when his board rebelled over what was seen as a 'boys club' move in the installment of former Marconi official Ross Musso as national team manager.

Some lobbying behind the scenes from former incumbent Bonita Mersiades, who had been dumped after the passport fiasco in Coffs Harbour saw, the SA board call for Musso's immediate dismissal.

But as *SuperSoccer* went to press it appeared that Labbozzetta has withstood the first serious challenge in his short but stormy chairmanship.

Musso will fly out to Korea later this week with the small Australian-based national team contingent which will be led by NSWSF president, Peter Gray.

The eleventh hour installation of Gray as Head of Delegation is an appeasement to the dissenting board members although there is no doubt that his vast experience at international level will help coach Frank Farina's cause.

You can't help wondering why Gray wasn't made permanent Tour Manager.

But on the field it was all New South Wales as the mighty Wolves defied predictions by humbling South Melbourne at Bob Jane Stadium.

Despite the shock news of the cancellation of the World Club Championship (see story, back page) the Wolves played the game the only way they know how—all out attack.

"It was a terrific result, we didn't come here to lose or play defensive football, we just came here to attack and the boys managed to restrict South Melbourne well," Wolves coach Ron Corry said after the match.

His counterpart wasn't totally demoralised, knowing that he has this Sunday's Preliminary Final to make amends.

"I'm not disappointed, I'll stick by the boys and after a great season, the boys are entitled to an ordinary day," said South coach Mike Petersen.

"After all, this was our first home loss for the season."

At Parramatta Stadium Olympic's Branko Culina was all smiles.

He likened his side's hard fought 1-0 win against Melbourne Knights to that of English club Liverpool.

"Sometimes you have to have luck on your side," he said.

"Who would have thought that Liverpool could have done so well.

"Now we have the chance to play South Melbourne in the Preliminary Final and we are one game away from the Grand Final.

"Of course I am delighted."

But not half as delighted as Soccer Australia officials who watched helplessly as Melbourne Knights fans started to rip apart Parramatta Stadium. A group of three hundred had perched themselves on the seats for the entire game.

After the match they threw the broken seats and industrial garbage bins onto police and security guards below.

The trouble was quickly quelled as the Knights earned their reputation as having the worst fans in the league.

In the first half the game was stopped after a linesman was struck by a bottle thrown from amongst a group of Melbourne Knights supporters.

CON BOUTSIANIS: Branko Culina knows he will have to stop him to make the Grand Final

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Awaritefe thinks over his future

By Frank Risorto

National Soccer League star Francis Awaritefe is pondering the possibility of continuing his football career playing in the New South Wales Super League.

Recently retired from the NSL with Sydney United, Awaritefe had been rumoured to have signed with NSWSL club AC United.

"I haven't signed anything with any club as yet," says Awaritefe.

"AC, as well as another club, have approached me but I'm still thinking things over.

"AC rang me and asked me if I wanted to play a few games.

"Their offer sounds good but I can't say anything more yet.

"It all depends on my family and work commitments as well and I'm doing more with work at the moment so I'm still thinking about it."

Awaritefe, who has not seen any NSWSL games, admits he would enjoy the challenge of playing again at a part time level.

"I might check some out in the next few weeks and that might give me a good idea of what I will come up against if I decide to play," said Awaritefe.

"I had to miss out on the last NSL game because I had to go to a work conference in Hawaii.

"I have enjoyed my time off so far but it feels like it's just the end of the season and I haven't finished playing.

"But I'm in a better physical shape than this stage last year and feel good at the moment.

"And I feel as though I can continue playing, maybe even in the NSL.

"One major reason I had to retire was that it was becoming too difficult to be able to keep playing and training and fit that in with work.

"I have got two young children and I would like to spend more time with them as well.

"When I did retire I didn't want to go out with a big song and dance and I certainly didn't want to over stay my welcome in the NSL

"People who know me closely know this is my decision but you can never say never.

"And you never know what will happen.

"A couple of club directors have approached me and asked me about next season but if I've kicked my last ball in the NSL then I'm happy."

AC United President John Palmano believes Awaritefe would be a great addition to any club.

"We have talked to him and I really do hope he signs with us," says Palmano.

"He would be a great person to have around and I'm sure he would bring a few more people through the gates.

"His experience with the young guys would be a huge advantage as well so we'll wait and see what happens."

Awaritefe is expected to make his decision in the next fortnight.

LAST WEEK'S AUSTRALIAN PLAYER TRANSFERS

OFFICIALLY REPORTED
Jose Mendes (Canterbury to Dulwich Hill)
Malcolm Meilak (loan from Parramatta Eagles to Hajduk)
Jacek Sobczyk (Northern Spirit to Manly)
Nahuel Arrarte (Sydney United to Rockdale City, loan)
Ismael Arrarte (Northern Spirit to MSC Liverpool, loan)
Shawn Maple (Hills United to Rockdale)
Dejan Ristovski (Sutherland to Rockdale City Suns)
Robbie Gomez (Bonnyrigg to Bankstown City Lions, loan)
Tayfun Devrimol (Bonnyrigg to AC United, loan)
PRESS/CLUB REPORTED
Dino Menillo (Wollongong to Bradford City ENG, June)
Scott Chipperfield (Wollongong—Perth Glory, June)

Marconi number one priority

By Adam Leto

THE future of several Marconi players will be decided when the club's board meet over the next few days.

The meeting will be the last for outgoing football manager Frank Labbozzetta, who has resigned after serving the club since 1968.

"Everybody is talking about what's happening with Eddie or the players," Labbozzetta said. "But what about the people who have put their lives into the club over the years?

"What about them?

"People should worry more about the state of the club, not myself or Eddie."

"The club is more important.

"It was my decision to leave, but at the end of the day I will always be a supporter of Marconi and will contribute in any capacity I can.

"Ultimately the board knows best, and they will decide what's best for the club."

Marconi are rumoured to be on the verge of clearing half of their playing staff.

Victoria names squad

VICTORIA has announced a 16-player squad for the challenge match against NSW on June 2 at Epping Stadium.
The squad:
Goalkeepers: Robert Brian (Green Gully), Jim Kourtis (Heidelberg United).
Defenders: Peter Groidis (Altona East), Ross Antoniadis (Altona East), Thomas Karapatsos (Bentleigh), Jimmy Latinopoulos (Bulleen), Mile Medjedovic (Heidelberg United), Stiven Nedanovski (Preston).
Midfielders: Brian MacNicol (Bulleen), Henry Velkovski (Green Gully), Damian Vojtek (Heidelberg United), Mijo Trupkovic (St Albans).
Strikers: Juan Nilo (Bentleigh), Danny Gujidic (Bulleen), Alfonso Opazo (Heidelberg), Nick Tsaltas (Port Melbourne).

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NZ NSL gains new sponsor

THE New Zealand national league has secured a new sponsor following the collapse of Qantas NZ.

The league will be sponsored by ***The Southern Trust*** for the rest of the current season and the following season also.

Last week Soccer NZ chartered a plane to fulfil its league commitments after the collapse of the Qantas sponsorship arrangements.

The deal is reported to be worth around $NZ200,000 over the two season period.

The Southern Trust CEO, Karen Good, said in a press release: "Following the unfortunate demise of the previous sponsor we were delighted to accept the opportunity presented to us by New Zealand Soccer.

"The criteria of reaching into the community is perfectly satisfied with this relationship.

"The ten team National League not only aligns itself geographically to our sites, but if you play the straight numbers game, we are now also directly associated with the country's largest participant sport.

"Hopefully we have also averted a potential difficulty for New Zealand Soccer following the collapse of the previous sponsor."

WORLD CUP LATEST ...

Africa still in line, time running out and Morocco joins race

By Dayan Candappa

THE recent stadium disasters in Africa will not affect plans to stage the 2010 World Cup on that continent, FIFA president Sepp Blatter said last Tuesday.

"What Africa needs now is guidance and help to learn from these lessons," Blatter said at the end of a two-day visit to Sri Lanka.

Blatter, the first serving FIFA president to visit the country since 1977, said world soccer's governing body will raise stadium safety concerns with members at its July congress.

Stampedes have killed more than 170 people at matches in Africa this year, including at least 120 in Ghana earlier this month -- the continent's worst sporting tragedy.

"We will give top priority to stadium safety and security," Blatter told a news conference.

"We want to make sure we get the message to all our members so that no one has an excuse," he said.

All 204 members of FIFA will attend the July congress in Buenos Aires.

Blatter said some of the deaths, particularly at Johannesburg's Ellis Park, could have been averted if FIFA safety procedures had been followed.

"In South Africa it appears that the referee started the match before there was complete order outside the ground. That is against FIFA procedure," said Blatter.

At least 43 people were crushed to death at Ellis Park when spectators tried to force their way into the stadium after the game began.

Turning to the 2002 World Cup, Blatter said the tournament that will be hosted by Japan and South Korea would be the most expensive ever staged.

"This will be the cost of two World Cups," he said.

"There will be very little money left over in the end."

Blatter said time was running out for North Korea to stage a game at the finals.

"Time is short for such a proposal," he said.

"If it does not come through by the draw in November it will be too late," he said.

North Korea has not officially expressed interest in helping to host the World Cup, but South Korea has repeatedly said it would be open to the idea.

The two countries remain divided by a heavily fortified border and are still technically at war since the 1950-53 Korean War ended in an armistice rather than a peace agreement.

Blatter also said he still hoped Brazil would qualify for the finals, but added that the fact they were struggling to qualify reflected the strength of competition.

"There is no more room for weak teams. That is good for football," said Blatter, who described his welcome in Sri Lanka as "the best received anywhere in 26 years with FIFA."

The streets were lined with banners hailing Blatter, who arrived in Colombo on Monday to open the new headquarters of the local football federation.

And Morocco will bid to host the 2010 World Cup soccer finals to be held for the first time in Africa, a Royal Palace statement said from Rabat last week.

The statement, carried by the official MAP news agency, said the decision was taken by King Mohammed at a meeting attended by Youth and Sports Minister Ahmed Moussaoui and top sports officials.

Morocco made bids to host the World Cup finals in 1994, 1998 and 2006, but the tournaments were awarded by soccer's world governing body FIFA to the United States, France and Germany.

The North African country's failures were blamed on poor infrastructure.

For its last failed attempt, Morocco said it planned to invest over $500 million to build new stadiums.

FIFA president Sepp Blatter said last month Africa would "definitely" host the 2010 World Cup.

South Africa, narrowly and controversially beaten by Germany in the vote for the 2006 tournament, confirmed in March that it would mount its second bid for the finals.

Egypt, Nigeria and Tunisia have also expressed an interest in hosting the tournament in nine years' time.

The Royal Palace statement said the king "reiterated his confidence in Driss Benhima, appointing him vice-chairman of the national committee in charge of the Moroccan bid for the World Cup."

Benhima, who also heads state-run power utility ONE, led Morocco's efforts to stage the 2006 tournament.

The monarch ordered the building of all the necessary sports infrastructure "as soon as possible", the statement added.

BUTCHER TO USE INSIDE KNOWLEDGE

By Jon West

FORMER England captain Terry Butcher claims he knows exactly why high-profile managers like Dick Advocaat sometimes buy players without ever seeing them in the flesh.

And now Butcher has offered his own services as a solution to the problem.

The former Rangers defender has joined forces with ex-Celtic coach Eric Black and agent Murdo Mackay to form the Inside Soccer company.

The Livingston-based set-up is marketing itself as the world's first recruitment agency for football clubs, offering an unbiased scouting report on requested players.

Butcher gave up a coaching job at Dundee United to join the venture while Black pulled out of the race to succeed Jim Jefferies at Hearts to do the same.

Mackay has also stepped down as a registered FIFA agent.

Butcher tasted life as a manager at both Coventry City and Sunderland and said he understood why managers sometimes sign players purely on recommendation.

Earlier in the season Advocaat admitted he had paid Wimbledon £900,000 for striker Marcus Gayle without ever seeing him play.

Gayle has yet to score for his new club and was even briefly switched to left-back before being jettisoned altogether from the first-team pool.

Advocaat has hired fellow Dutchman Jan Wouters to be first-team coach next season - and free up the manager for more scouting sessions.

Butcher said: "I once bought a player without seeing him when I was at Coventry - Paul Furlong.

"We paid Enfield £140,000, which was a lot of money in 1991. We sold him to Watford for £250,000 and he went to Chelsea for £2million, so he wasn't a bad player.

"I looked at a lot of players including non-league and reserve sides.

"But we don't want to get managers to buy players on recommendation.

"A manager should see a player before he signs.

"For a manager to make a final decision, all the work should be done beforehand.

"Hopefully the service we provide, the report, will make a manager want to go and see a player."

Mackay added that the reports would be warts and all, in contrast to those provided by agents representing solely the player's interest.

He said: "If a guy hasn't got a good left foot or is a bit slow, we will tell them that.

"It will save the club in the long term a lot of money."

The confidential reports would not just concentrate on playing abilities either - the player's personality would also be assessed.

Mackay said: "I think there are situations when you need to supply a judgement call on players' suitability and adaptability.

"I can think of many good players for reasons other than their football have not been able to settle in another country."

Black retains contacts in France from his time as a player with Metz and revealed he had given Hibernian boss Alex McLeish and Bobby Williamson of Kilmarnock guidance on potential recruits.

He added: "Now we are charging for it."

Inside Soccer claims to send scouts to 60 games a week and is looking to expand into Europe, with an arrangement to cover Scandinavia already agreed and plans to do the same in France, Italy and Spain in the pipeline.

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Jovanovski named Macedonia coach

MACEDONIA have named Gjore Jovanovski as coach in time for the World Cup qualifiers against Moldova and Turkey in June, officials said on Wednesday.

Jovanovski, 45, will stay with Macedonia champions Sloga Jugomagnat Skopje's for the last two games of the season before replacing Dragan Kanatlarovski, who resigned on Monday after a run of poor results.

The Macedonian Football Union's executive board met Jovanovski last Tuesday to finalise a contract.

Jovanovski, who has coached ex-champions Vardar and Turkey's Samsunspor, was Macedonia's manager of the year in 1999.

He led Sloga Jugomagnat to the title in 1999 and the league and cup double last year.

He also steered Vardar to cup success in 1998.

Jovanovski had two spells as a player at Vardar and also played for Belgrade's Crvena Zvezda and Samsunspor.

Macedonia are fourth in World Cup European qualifying group four after losing 2-1 at home to Turkey at the end of March.

They have won only one of their five matches and are seven points behind the top three teams, Slovakia, Turkey and Sweden.

NEXT WEEK ....
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Fairfield Bulls v Fraser Park Jets
Nineveh Field 7:00PM 5:00PM 3:00PM
Sunday 27 May
Bankstown City Lions v M.S.C Liverpool
Jensen Park 6:00PM 4:00PM 2:00PM
Dulwich Hill v Hurstville City Minotaurs
Arlington Oval 3:00PM 1:00PM 11:00AM
Rockdale City Suns v Stanmore Hawks
Rockdale Sports 3:00PM 1:00PM 11:00AM
Manly Warringah Dolphins v AC United
Cromer Park 3:00PM 1:00PM 11:00AM
Round 8 Rescheduled Fixture:
Manly-Warringah Dolphins v Rockdale City Suns
8.15pm, Thurs 24-May, Cromer Park

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ENGLAND LEADING THE WAY IN STADIA DEVELOPMENT

By Philippa Moreton

ENGLAND'S premier league football clubs have become the envy of their European counterparts since a series of tragedies in the 1980s spurred a major stadium overhaul that has helped transform the face of the game.

It is a far cry from the era when English football was vilified for the hooliganism that ran rife through its culture, and whose antiquated and dilapidated grounds contributed to three major tragedies involving English clubs between 1985 and 1989.

Clubs have invested almost 750 million pounds in their stadia since the premiership was set up in 1992, according to consultants Deloitte & Touche in their annual report on premier league club finance, with Manchester United's Old Trafford, Sunderland's Stadium of Light and Newcastle's St James's Park the symbols of modern football culture.

A huge cash injection from television rights, advertising and merchandising since the premiership's inception has helped propel the turnaround, which enabled football to begin to shrug off the yob culture that had dominated it for so many years, and attract a new audience.

But it was the government-commissioned report on the Hillsborough tragedy in 1989 when 96 Liverpool supporters died, which really set the ball rolling. It recommended new safety standards including the enforcement of all seater stadia.

"It is surely undisputed that the developments in the Premier League throughout the last decade have provided the benchmark for football stadia development in Europe," the Deloitte & Touche report said.

"English clubs, from a commercial and business point of view, are already a model for European clubs," the consultants said.

Old Trafford, St James's Park and the Stadium of Light, the three biggest club stadia in the country, have become shining examples of the modern, multi-purpose football ground.

Now, instead of being simply somewhere to go to watch a match every two weeks, many English clubs provide year round commercial and leisure facilities.

"The stadium has become a significant revenue earner in its own right," said the consultants.

Clubs cannot expect to draw people to their grounds without an element of success on the pitch, but "making it an event, where experience and pleasure is key, as opposed to treating it purely as a game, where the result is key, makes a deal of difference to customer attractiveness and loyalty," the consultants said.

In the 1999/2000 season alone, English football clubs spent 141 million pounds on ground developments.

Manchester United spent 31 million pounds expanding Old Trafford's capacity to 67,700, an investment which boosted gate receipts by a third to over 28 million pounds in the first six months of this year.

With most clubs drawing capacity crowds on a regular basis, expansion has become a major issue.

Some, such as Arsenal and Leicester, are planning to follow the examples of Sunderland and Derby in starting afresh with completely new stadia.

"There are many good examples in the 1990s showing the way for clubs to maximise the returns they achieve from their stadium," said Deloitte & Touche.

Sunderland's 48,000 capacity Stadium of Light, which replaced the club's old Roker Park ground and cost under 40 million pounds, is seen as a blueprint for the new, multi-purpose arena.

It facilities for all types of occasions, from business meetings to wedding banquets, with various restaurants and bars as well as private meeting rooms or executive boxes overlooking the pitch.

Players too can expect optimum treatment, with a creche for their children and a special cafe and relaxation area for players and their families to mingle in before and after matches.

On the back of its success, the club's chairman, Bob Murray, is being considered for involvement in the ill-fated Wembley stadium redevelopment, according to media reports.

The commercial importance of match fixtures cannot be underestimated, with 54 executive boxes costing between 18 and 33,000 pounds each or match-day entertainment in the carvery restaurant for just over 1,000 pounds, among the choice of facilities.

The Hillsborough disaster of 1989, in Sheffield, northern England, was the catalyst for stadium transformation, raising new questions about the safety of the game after 96 Liverpool fans were crushed to death in an FA Cup semi-final.

The fans had been penned in by fences put up to keep them off the pitch, but after police opened a gate into the stand, a sudden surge of late arrivals thrust forward, crushing those in front of them.

As a result of the tragedy, the barriers were torn down and there were immediate calls for grounds to be made safer.

All-seater stadia was the main recommendation of the resulting report, enforced by 1994, by Lord Justice Taylor.

Hillsborough followed two disasters in 1995, at Bradford, northern England, where 56 people died in a fire and at Heysel in Belgium, where 39 Italian fans died when a wall collapsed after violence from English fans, ahead of the European cup final between Liverpool and Italian club Juventus.

FROM OUR ARCHIVES ...

DAVID MITCHELL was signed from the local state league by then Adelaide City coach Rale Rasic in 1979. In 1982 Mitchell transferred to Sydney City and later began a long and successful career in Europe with sides like Glasgow Rangers, Eintracht and Feyenoord.

SOUTH MELBOURNE was formed in 1959 from an amalgamation of Hellenic and Yarra Park clubs. A few months later South Melbourne United, which had the tenancy of Middle Park, joined. All three were Greek-backed clubs.

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Dugdale's Dream Come True could become Farina's Nightmare

EXCLUSIVE BY BRUCE CAMPBELL

TALK about New Zealand being underdogs in the forthcoming World Cup elimination battle might just be a bit off the mark.

The first reason is fairly obvious, that the All Whites still have to win their own elimination series first.

While coach Ken Dugdale concedes that anything other than a win would be a "major disaster" he is smart enough to realise that games aren't won on paper.

First the Kiwis have to earn the right to be underdogs.

Dugdale is also thankful that the games are being played on home soil.

Suggestions that the pre-qualification games should be played in the Islands as a means of development bring a grim reminder of Australia's fate against Fiji a couple of decades back.

"If you play under local conditions anything can happen," he says.

"We also end up playing in the middle of the day when it is hottest.

"If those games are played in Australia and New Zealand then they are played on good pitches and at times which are fair to everyone.

"There are ways to develop the other nations and at the end of the day that is what we all want.

"Before we can guarantee straight qualification into the World Cup our own series has to be worthwhile winning.

"Score lines of 32-0 won't achieve that."

This time around Dugdale, a softly spoken Englishman who has been in New Zealand since the early 1970s, knows that he has a good squad, one which he says is almost 100%.

"Danny Hay has a groin injury and won't be coming back but other than that we have a full strength squad," Dugdale adds.

"I don't know if it is the best we have had for 20 years (as reported widely in the Australian press) but it must be pretty close to it.

"I have never named my very best line-up and would be hoping that if we play against Australia I could do it then.

"A lot of our players are overseas based and even the ones who aren't getting regular first team football have a full time environment so they come back to us as better players.

"Obviously the best case would be if they were playing first team football in big leagues but we have a lot of good players."

The only member of the squad not playing pro football either overseas or in the NSL is NZ National League club Central United's Ross Nicholson.

Dugdale concedes that playing in a part time league where average crowds are only about three or four hundred is not exactly best preparation for a possible World Cup finals but seems to be happy that that is the exception rather than the rule.

The amount of confidence that Dugdale has in his keepers, the first choice is Scunthorpe number 1 Jason Batty, is evidenced by the fact that he has named only two in a party of 20 players ready to take on the minnow-esque might of Vanuatu, Tahiti, Cook Islands and Solomon Islands.

That confidence will sky rocket with the news that Harry Kewell and Mark Viduka are out of Australia's own Confederation Cup plans—and the Kiwi boss will be keeping his fingers crossed that the two Aussies stay at home for the rest of the northern summer, and miss lining up against New Zealand in the process.

But Dugdale has his own expat problems as well.

"Both Simon Elliott and Ryan Nelson play on the 2nd of June while Vaughan Coveny could be in the NSL Grand Final," he points out.

"So we have the same kind of problem that Frank Farina has.

"Australia must be the big favourites.

"Farina has a really good squad and I would be a big surprise if we got past Australia."

Big surprise or not, Dugdale has already done just that.

He became national coach in 1998, just in time to win the Oceania Cup in Brisbane.

The fact that he knocked off Australia in the final is more than likely the reason that Raul Blanco was passed over as caretaker coach and lost any real chance of staying on at Soccer Australia.

Since then he has taken his team on an impressive series of results, and in his own words "New Zealand no longer gets turned over by anyone."

Should the Kiwis qualify, and it is hard to see any other possible result, then they will play Australia in a home and away leg on June 20 and 24.

The vital home leg may yet be plagued in Sydney but Soccer Australia are withholding confirmation until their opponents are confirmed.

Dugdale rates the Kiwi job as his "dream come true" and talks of the pride he has in the results achieved by his developing team.

And while it is obvious that he has a more than healthy respect for the Socceroos he isn't daunted by the size of his task.

"I would love to beat them by six," Dugdale laughs.

"But that won't happen.

"Instead I'd like to make a comparison to the Under 20 match when we were right in it until the last eight minutes of the second leg.

"That is what I am aiming for, to be in it up until the last minute."

NEW ZEALAND'S 20 MAN WORLD CUP QUALIFYING SQUAD

Goalkeepers: Jason Batty (SCUNTHORPE UNITED), Ross Nicholson (CENTRAL UNITED).
Defenders: Scott Smith (WOKING), Sean Douglas (FOOTBALL KINGZ), Ivan Vicelich (RODA JC), Ryan Nelsen (DC UNITED), Chris Zoricich (NEWCASTLE).
Midfielders: Jonathan Perry (FOOTBALL KINGZ), Mark Atkinson (EASTERN PRIDE), Simon Elliott (LOS ANGELES GALAXY), Mark Burton (FOOTBALL KINGZ), Chris Jackson (FOOTBALL KINGZ), Arran Lines (FOOTBALL KINGZ), Noah Hickey (replaces Gavin Wilkinson), Jeff Campbell (FOOTBALL KINGZ), Gerard Davis (FOOTBALL KINGZ).
Strikers: Kris Boukenhooghe (SK ROESELARE), Vaughan Coveny (SOUTH MELBOURNE), Chris Killen (MANCHESTER CITY), Paul Urlovic (FOOTBALL KINGZ)

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Van Bentum hoping it's the Year of the Bulls

By Frank Risorto

STARTING the NSW Super League season as one of the favourites, the pressure has been on Fairfield Bulls from day one.

Along with Dulwich Hill and Rockdale City Fairfield was an early season pick and they have backed up their claim with some great football including their 9-1 victory over Stanmore.

In that match Fairfield Bulls Stewart Van Bentum believes the luck was on their side.

"Everything went our way really and we just managed to create chances and put them away," says Van Bentum.

"But Stanmore actually had the first chance and if it wasn't for a great save by our keeper then we would have been behind.

"As long as we keep creating the chances then we will hopefully score."

Van Bentum has played in the NSWSL over the past five years with Blacktown, Bankstown and Bonnyrigg (pre Premier League) and is in his first season with the Bulls.

He believes that the Bulls strength is their willingness to attack.

"Our attacking ability is fantastic and I think we can always score goals whether we are in front or behind," Van Bentum said.

"In our first eight games we averaged three goals a game, so it's pretty good.

"And as long as we keep creating the chances we will keep scoring."

Even though the mid-table Bulls have been putting goals away for fun in the opening eight rounds of the NSWSL Van Bentum feels the side needs to still improve in some areas.

"We need to improve our defence and try to keep a few clean sheets," he said.

"We have scored 29 goals but conceded about 15 so it's a small problem.

"But I would rather win eight games 1-0 then win one game 8-0.

"We have a lot of new players in the team so when we combine better and our communication picks up I have no doubt we will improve.

"We haven't played Dulwich Hill yet who look the best side but we have had a few tough games against teams like Manly and Macarthur.

"But those games are still a challenge and always good to play in because sides like Macarthur will fight to the death and you know you have a game on your hands.

"It won't just be a stroll.

"The potential in the team is really good and we are definitely a chance to finish in the top three. We are a good side and can push any team, so I hope come the end of the season we are there challenging for the Championship."

Dene building for the future

By Frank Risorto

MSC LIVERPOOL coach Brian Dene is confident the club's injury crisis will spum a new generation of players.

Due to injury and suspension Liverpool have been without the services of regulars and have promoted youngsters Darren Opsal, Tim Spane, Matt Harrison and Tom Tregear to the first team.

Despite their relative experience in the Premier League Dene believes they can come good for the club in the near future.

"We didn't want to bring them in to the first grade as soon as this but we have had to," says Dene.

"Six senior players were out of the side over the first few weeks of the competition and we even lost two in one match.

"And even Clinton Green, he's been fantastic and really done well, but we are still settling and will just keep working at it."

MSC's slow start to the season has seen the club rooted to the bottom of the table.

"We don't have any big names in our side and we are playing with a lot of young guys," he said.

"But we are giving these young guys exposure and in two or three years time I think they will become really good players.

"Our main problem is just being consistent over the 90 minutes.

"When we beat Dulwich Hill we played good for 75 minutes and then dropped off for 15 minutes so I would like us to be consistent for the whole game. As long as we keep working at it we will get better each week."

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Port Kembla's midfield ace, Mineo Bonetig. The former Wollongong NSL player believes that the Zebras will start to shake of their early season inconsistencies.

PK ready to hit their stride

By Frank Risorto

MINEO Bonetig believes Port Kembla's season will really start within the next four weeks. Currently sitting in third spot on the Illawarra Premier League table, Port are renowned for being slow starters to the season.

But come finals time they transform into a smooth, slick side taking all in front of them.

"We have started the season OK but there are some areas we can improve," says Bonetig.

"Port has some good players but it will take some time for them to combine.

"We start slow each year I think because we have two or three new guys and they take some time to settle.

"Our team-work is one area we could improve and also our communication on the field has to get better.

"If you watch Coniston play, they are always talking and have a good understanding but that will come with time."

Bonetig is now 31 years old but is enjoying his football more then ever.

"I'm getting on now and for me it's more of a social thing," he says.

"At Port Kembla you have friends and I've been there a few years now and it's good to stay in shape.

"The committee and the coaching staff are great and our coach Adrian Alston is really good to play under and he wants to win as bad as the players.

"But that's the same with everyone involved with the club, they want to be part of a winning side."

Bonetig would also like to see an Illawarra side in the New South Wales Premier League.

"For a lot of players it would be a real boost to see an Illawarra side in the Premier League within the next few years," he says.

"At the moment when a player is dropped by the Wolves youth set-up they then have nowhere to go.

"Then they begin playing in the Illawarra league and it's a good league but if they want to improve themselves they need to take that step up.

"But at the moment they just seem to have the potential to become a good player and then it drops off.

"Whether it's Port Kembla in the Premier League or any other side it doesn't matter as long as these young guys get better."

As for Bonetig's future he is quite happy to just keep playing at this level.

"I'm happy here and really enjoy it so I think I'll keep playing until it's impossible," says Bonetig.

"I've coached kids before and enjoyed that so I would love to get into that.

"To be able to teach them skills and things like that is a real buzz and now I just want

NSW SUPER LEAGUE BRIEFS

HURSTVILLE Minotaurs, Peter Sarikakis, has left the club in the hands of his assistant coach Bill Drossos for the next two weeks.

Sarikakis left Sydney last week as part of the official Australian delegation to commemorate the 'Battle of Crete' and will be away for two matches.

DULWICH Hill coach Bill Pilovski will be missing for four weeks after going into hospital for surgery.

President Duarte Martins flew out of Australia last week for talks with an undisclosed Portuguese club.

HAJDUK Wanderers coach Phil Pavela is expected to release a few players in a bid to fire up the club.

He is also looking to recruit a few more players and is on the hunt.

Former Crewe Alexandra player Ben Burrows may end up at Wanderers whose start to the season is their worst in the club's recent history.

Ben Moring

European Cup winner Murdoch dies

FORMER Scotland international Bobby Murdoch, who played in the Celtic team that won the European Cup in 1967, has died in Glasgow at the age of 56. The BBC said last Tuesday that Murdoch had died in hospital two days after suffering a stroke.

He had been taken to Glasgow's Victoria Infirmary after falling ill on Sunday and had slipped into a coma.

"Bobby Murdoch died peacefully with his family at his side," the BBC quoted an Infirmary spokeswoman as saying.

Murdoch, a playmaker capped 12 times by Scotland, joined Celtic in 1959 and played in the side that beat Inter Milan 2-1 in Lisbon in 1967 to become the first British team to win the European Cup.

He later played for English club Middlesbrough and also became their coach.

Former Celtic right-back Tommy Gemmell, who scored one of the goals that won the European Cup, told Sky Sports he would remember Murdoch as "a great colleague, a great player and a very good friend".

"He could score goals and make goals.

"His teamwork was magnificent. He was an all-round great player."

Celtic chairman Brian Quinn said: "Bobby was a great servant to the club both on and off the field.

"His achievement as a Lisbon Lion and as a Scottish international will ensure that he lives on forever in the hearts and minds of the Celtic family."

Knights tribunal on Tuesday

SOCCER Australia advised last week that Melbourne Knights had applied for a two week adjournment of the Disciplinary Tribunal scheduled on Thursday 17 May 2001, to hear charges into incidents which took place on 6 May at Knights Stadium, during and after the club's Elimination Quarter Final against Perth Glory.

The request had been made because of the severity and extensive nature of the charges laid, which Melbourne Knights claimed would require adequate preparation time to answer.

Although the tribunal refused the request for a two week adjournment, it agreed that an adjournment until Tuesday 22 May was reasonable in the circumstances, to ensure that the club was afforded an opportunity to prepare its case.

Following on from this adjournment, the date of the Tribunal to hear the charge against Perth Glory's Bobby Despotovski, of bringing the game into disrepute, has now been confirmed for Wednesday 23 May in Sydney.

Jurilj Cleared by FIFA

FIFA has cleared an Australian soccer player facing a lifetime ban in Singapore on match fixing charges.

In a statement released last week, Australian Professional Footballers' Association chief executive Brendan Schwab said former Sydney United player Mirko Jurilj had been cleared by FIFA's disciplinary committee and could now rebuild his career.

Jurilj was sentenced to five months jail in January on match-fixing charges involving his Singapore league club, Sembawang FC.

"I am obviously very pleased with FIFA's decision and regard it as a vindication of my innocence," said Jurilj who served 100 days in a Singapore jail.

"I now hope to be able to put this episode behind me and look forward to getting back out on the pitch and playing football."

The Football Association of Singapore and the Asian Football Confederation imposed a lifetime ban in January and requested that FIFA extend it worldwide.

But Jurilj's lawyer Eugenie Buckley said the FIFA disciplinary committee had rejected the request and was critical of FAS's handling of the matter.

"The FAS exercised a blatant disregard for Mirko's right to natural justice," he said.

"He was suspended by the FAS for alleged match fixing, despite a complete absence of proof.

"Further he was never given an opportunity to be heard by the FAS in relation to the allegations nor was he given the right to appeal the decision."

Buckley said the charges were "outrageous".

"There was never any proof that the alleged matches were fixed and the prosecution even conceded that Mirko had not approached players, coaches or officials involved in the matches.

"Despite the informant bookmaker's claims that Mirko was expected to perform poorly in order for the alleged bets to be successful, there is evidence that our client actually played very well in all matches."

Schwab said Jurilj was made a "victim".

Bayern take title

THE late, late Patrik Andersson show in Hamburg ensured the Bundesliga title will be heading back to Munich for the third successive season.

In a dramatic end to the campaign, the Swede grabbed an equaliser in injury time to earn his side a 1-1 draw and secure the title for the Bavarian giants.

Bayern were set to lose their crown after falling behind in the 90th minute, while title rivals Schalke were 5-3 up against Unterhaching.

But Andersson's late intervention sealed Bayern's 17th title. With the scores locked at 0-0 at the half-time break, Bayern were just 45 minutes from clinching the title.

But in an amazing afternoon in the Bundesliga, the reigning champions had to pull their third successive title out of the fire.

While second-place Schalke were beating Unterhaching 5-3, Bayern fell behind to a Sergei Barberez header in the 88th minute.

And if things had stayed that way, then Schalke would have overtaken Munich and taken the title.

But with time running out for the Champions League finalists, who needed just a point to clinch the title, Andersson stepped up to win his place in Bayern folklore.

Hamburg goalkeeper Schober picked up a backpass and Bayern were given a free-kick some nine yards out.

Stefan Effenburg laid the ball back to Andersson and the Swedish international fired in the title-winning goal.

The match itself had been a scrappy affair with neither side willing to take the attacking initiative and Bayern looked happy to sit back and play the game in midfield.

The only notable goal-scoring opportunity of the first half came in the 15th minute when Bayern's Brazilian striker Elber hit a deflected shot just over the bar.

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D'Avray firms as Glory favourite

By Frank Risorto

MITCH D'Avray, the current assistant coach of Perth Glory, has become a favourite to lead the WA club next season.

Last week Perth chairman Nick Tana announced the only the only two people considered for the job will be current coach Bernd Stange and D'Avray.

Stange will not commit himself to the club until he knows what the future plans for the Glory are.

The Glory's season ended with a disappointing 2-2 draw to Melbourne Knights in Perth.

Perth were eliminated from the Championship finals on away goals after the previous week's 0-0 draw in Melbourne.

Tana has said he will make a decision regarding the new coach within the next two weeks.

Sources close to the club believe that it was Tana's intention for D'Avray to take over now before he extended Stange's contract last year for one more season.

D'Avray wouldn't speculate on his future with the club but was happy with the fact he would be in a job next season either way.

"I can't speculate on anything," says D'Avray.

"So at the moment I'm only speaking on the facts I know and what the chairman has said.

"But either way I will either be head or assistant coach of Perth Glory next season.

"If Bernd decides to stay on and coach again I would be happy.

"He is a very close friend of mine and I have enjoyed working with him.

"If everything is kept the same then I will be happy and if I am given the job I will be more then happy to accept the challenge."

D'Avray arrived in Australia after a career that took him from playing in the 1981 UEFA Cup winning Ipswich side under Bobby Robson to leading out the Under 23 South African side in an Australian tour in 1997.

"After that tour was over I was flying home and decided to stop and see friends in Perth," he said.

"They took me to watch the Glory play and I thought how I would love to be involved in a club like this.

"So when the opportunity arose I sent them my resume and flew over for a couple of interviews and met with Bernd and I knew right away we could work together.

"We sat down and talked everything through and we seemed to get along real well and it just went from there.

"From there it has turned in to a great relationship and I have learnt things from him and I have taught him some things as well.

"I am now involved in what is widely regarded, and what I think, is the best club in Australia."

SuperSoccer
AUSTRALIA'S BEST SELLING FOOTBALL WEEKLY

Mennillo heads for Bradford

By Frank Risorto

WOLLONGONG Wolves midfielder Dino Mennillo has secured a one year deal with English club Bradford City with an option for a second year.

Mennillo has had an interrupted season with the Wolves, succumbing to injury and suspension but has still managed to play 16 first team games.

Mennillo trialed with Dutch club FC Twente before the National Soccer League season started and also with Scottish club Dundee mid-season.

"In hindsight when I was offered the trial from FC Twente I shouldn't have gone," says Mennillo.

"It was only a week and you can't impress anybody in a week and it was the same in Scotland, there wasn't enough time.

"So the one thing I was prepared for at Bradford was that I had to impress and try to perform above any expectations.

"I was offered this trial by Bradford earlier on in the season.

"They wanted me to come over now but I didn't want to go there during the NSL finals.

"But it was an opportunity that I couldn't really pass up.

"So I went and spoke to Wollongong and they were good enough to let me go.

"I was on a plane the next day and trialed for two and a half weeks.

"They put me straight into the first team and I was training with them but I couldn't play a trial game because I couldn't get a clearance this late in the English season.

"By then they had seen enough of me and the manager said they would like to keep me and offered me a one-year contract."

Mennillo is one of eleven players off contract from Wollongong at the end of this season and is delighted with the new deal which now gives him a secure future.

"We didn't really know what was happening next season at Wollongong and it was a concern," he says.

"I'm getting married in three weeks and wanted to get things sorted out before then.

"We are going to Italy for our honeymoon and once that's over with we will head to Bradford to check it all out."

One thing Mennillo learnt quickly was that he had little time on the ball in England very different to the NSL.

"I noticed that straight away and it's an adjustment you have to make," he says.

"The other players expect a level of play out of you as well, like a pass in a certain position and they expect you to be aware at all times.

"But it's a big club and there are some great players and I hope to learn from them as well."

Mennillo believes the one piece of advice he can offer to budding trialists is to just enjoy themselves.

"It's just as important to be enthusiastic and make an effort and be interested in everything," he said.

"If you show you can adjust to their way of life and be really enthusiastic in training or with other players it helps and the management will see that and it will be a huge advantage."

Mennillo heads to the Yorkshire club on July 15th, although his contract with Bradford begins on July 1.

He's disappointed that he will miss out on the World Club Championships in Spain with Wollongong and is determined to finish his NSL career on a high.

"I have told all the team that I'll do my best for the remainder of my time," he says.

"So hopefully we could win another NSL Championship, you couldn't go out on a better note than that."

Aschner brings Canosa a bag of goals

By Frank Risorto

BANKSTOWN City Lions coach Claudio Canosa believes this will be one of the closest NSW Super League seasons in recent history.

The former National Soccer League player believes that any side could win the NSWSL on their day.

"This season is very difficult because each side is very even and like AC United showed two weeks ago by winning against Rockdale anything can happen," Canosa says.

"You definitely can't take anything for granted, so whoever is more prepared will win.

"On paper a side could be a better team and you see it all around the world that if you don't work as a team you won't win anything."

Bankstown started the NSWSL season with a win in their first game against Fairfield 1-0 and a 3-2 loss to Dulwich Hill.

Since the arrival of their Premier League signings, and in particular Jimmy Aschner who has brought goals, they have steadily improved each week.

"In the first game we were OK but could've played a lot better," says Canosa.

"We are starting to get better every each week and the team is combining better as a side.

"Jimmy has been good.

"He scored goals form the start and that's one thing we have needed this season."

Bankstown have also just signed Robbie Gomez on-loan from Bonnyrigg and Canosa hopes once he and Aschner settle they could form a great partnership.

"Robbie's got speed and experience in the Premier League," Canosa said.

"He has fantastic speed over the first ten metres and that should be an advantage to us.

"Hopefully he can use that speed to help us score goals although he will need to settle and work with Jimmy.

"They have only played two games together so far and hopefully they will form some sort of an understanding.

"Once he scores a goal then the confidence will be on the up and that's a big part of any striker's game.

"But they still need time to combine as a unit."

After signing several new players at the start of this season Canosa says the club has put their cheque book away.

"That's it now, we have a pretty good squad," said Canosa. "You must have two quality players in each position and that's what we have tried to do.

"I think our side is one of the best teams in the NSWSL and hopefully in the second round of fixtures we can make an impact on the competition."

Houllier may yet emulate Bill Shankly and Bob Paisley

By Mike Collett

LIVERPOOL fans left no doubt about who was their hero after the epic 5-4 win over Alaves in Wednesday's UEFA Cup final.

Step forward Monsieur Gerard Houllier.

The Frenchman, who will soon complete three years at Anfield, is being hailed as a worthy successor to Bill Shankly and Bob Paisley, the two managers who brought unprecedented success to the Merseyside club.

Houllier has worked a quiet French revolution at Anfield since taking over as sole manager after a brief and largely unsuccessful spell sharing managerial duties with Roy Evans.

Since taking over as boss in November 1998, Houllier has bought and sold shrewdly.

His efforts have been handsomely rewarded by a squad who added the UEFA Cup to the League Cup they won in February and the FA Cup they took so dramatically from Arsenal in the dying minutes of the final in Cardiff.

At most other clubs winning a treble would be a once-in-a-lifetime experience, but at Anfield it is not new.

Rather it is regarded as another step on the road to reclaiming the premier position Liverpool once held in both England and Europe.

They first won a treble in 1984 when Joe Fagan, who had taken over from Bob Paisley at the start of the season, led what was still largely Paisley's side to victory in the European Cup, the English League and the League Cup.

Paisley had retired the previous summer after nine years as Liverpool boss in which he became the most successful manager in the history of the English game by winning 20 trophies including six league titles, three European Cups and the UEFA Cup.

Paisley built his successes on the foundations laid by Bill Shankly, who transformed Liverpool from the run-down second division side he inherited in 1959 to English champions in 1964.

Shankly was the life, the soul and the spirit of Liverpool and his shock retirement as manager in 1974 and his premature death in 1981 raised his memory to mythic proportions.

He is immortalised in bronze at Anfield, so Houllier has some way to go before reaching that status.

But he is certainly moving in the right direction -- and he knows his Liverpool history better than most.

Houllier was a trainee teacher in Liverpool during the 1960s and watched Shankly's first great team of Ron Yeats, Ian St John, Ian Callaghan and Roger Hunt.

"Sometimes the past and the traditions of this club are a handicap," he said before the UEFA Cup final victory, "but I believe we are on the verge of another great era here.

"Clearly Manchester United are the team to catch and that will take time.

"But we are getting closer and closer and this team is getting stronger and stronger.

"Liverpool were the greatest side in England in the 1970s and 1980s and also in Europe until the Heysel tragedy brought that to an end.

"But I think in time we can come back.

I think we are on our way."

In 1985, 39 fans died before the European Cup final against Juventus at the Heysel stadium, leading to English clubs' expulsion from European competition.

Winning the UEFA Cup is one thing but to really regain their pre-eminence, Liverpool want nothing less than to win the European Cup - the last of their four triumphs came in 1984.

Victory in that tournament and the fans really will see the Frenchman as their new Messiah.

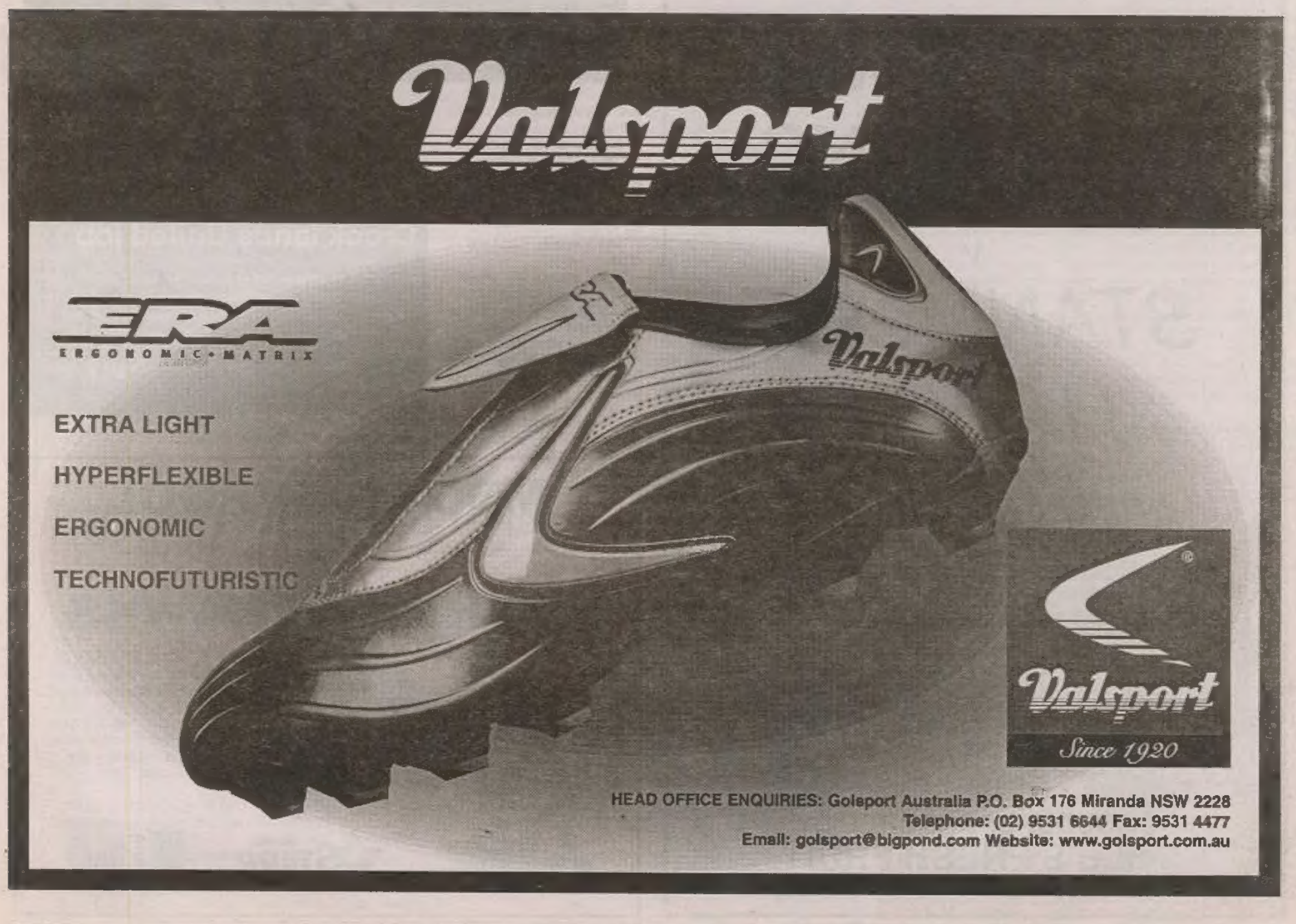
FROM OUR ARCHIVES ...

THE first formal meeting of football enthusiast in Sydney saw the formation of the Wanderers club by J.W. Fletcher in 1880.

IN 1953 Joe Marston became the first Australian to play in an FA Cup final. His team, Preston North End, lost 2-3 to West Bromwich Albion.

THE 1963 NSW Grand Final between APIA and South Coast United set a then new all-Australia club record when 30,158 packed the Sydney Sports ground.

ST GEORGE Budapest became the first Australian team to play in an international tournament in 1971 when they won the Tokyo International Tournament, the forerunner of the Kirin Cup, undefeated.



Royal Raul

Blanco favourite to be named Kingz coach

By Bruce Campbell

THE Football Kingz are expected to announce their new coach this week—after spending last week interviewing prospective candidates from Australia.

And top of that list is believed to be the name of Raul Blanco, former Australian national coach.

Blanco had a short spell as Socceroo coach but handed over the caretaker reigns when Terry Venables was appointed in a blaze of publicity.

Nevertheless, he continued as right hand man to Venables who took the Socceroos on an unbeaten and frustrating race to within minutes of an appearance at France '98.

With over 20 years experience in the national team setup it is believed that the only thing which will prevent the popular Blanco from becoming the Kingz new coach is finances.

"There is no doubt that Blanco has everything that the Kingz are after," said our source in New Zealand.

"I believe that he is a certainty to get the job, but you never know in football, so much is down to pettiness and flight of fancy that really anything could happen."

Blanco is well aware of that and refused to be drawn into predictions about the vacancy.

He did, however, confirm that he had been short listed as a candidate last week when he flew to New Zealand to discuss the post with the Kingz.

"It isn't appropriate that I make any comment about the Kingz job," Blanco said.

"I don't want to be disrespectful to either the club or the other candidates.

"But of course I would love to be their coach.

"Other than that I can't say much just yet."

Another Australian believed to be on the Kingz want list is former Carlton assistant coach, Fab Incantalupo.

The former Australian youth representative also had talks with Kingz officials last week.

After the failure of the Wynton and Shane Rufer coaching combination it appears that the Kingz are set to do a radical change-around, bringing in the best of Australia's coaching talent in an attempt to make an impact in the NSL.

If the Kingz are to pose a realistic threat to Australia's premier clubs then they need to recruit in depth in this country.

That certainty seems to be one of the reasons why the club has dumped the Rufer brothers.

Kingz have proven that, given reasonable results, they can attract large crowds.

To do that on a regular basis they must first build a squad stronger than that of previous seasons.

The future of Wynton Rufer as a player is also in doubt and it is another indication that the club are on the verge of appointing Blanco whose credentials are impeccable.

It could be that they would also include Rufer and Incantalupo in roles as back room staff under Blanco but Rufer is unlikely to work with anyone of lesser stature.

Blanco lost his tenure as caretaker coach because of Australia's failure to win the '98 Oceania Cup, ironically being beaten by New Zealand in the final.

But Blanco has refused to lay the blame at anyone's doorstep and instead points to the magnificent experiences he had with the Australian coaching staff.

"No-one could have asked for more," he said. "My period with Australia has been a great time. I have been fortunate to have been involved at the top for so long.

"The Oceania Cup was a difficult period.

"Our preparation wasn't what it should have been and we had to play without any of the overseas based players.

"My only disappointment is that some people who know better chose to ciritcise me publicly.

"But I have no regrets, only wonderful memories."

It is believed that if Blanco, as is expected, is named that he will relocate to New Zealand to take over the post.

Formerly he had NSL coaching experience with Parramatta Eagles and West Adelaide.

Crook lands United job

FORMER Northern Spirit defender, Ian Crook has been appointed as Newcastle United's head coach.

Crook, who also had a spell as assistant coach to Graham Arnold at Northern Spirit, replaces Lee Sterrey.

It is said that Newcastle are on the verge of turning full time.

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Tourists sign Langdon

By Bruce Campbell

PARRAMATTA Power, who are currently on tour in South East Asia, have announced their first major signing of the off-season

The NSL club has secured a major signature in that of Matthew Langdon, the diminutive midfielder who was one of the few successes last season for Northern Spirit.

Surprisingly Langdon was cut by new Sprit coach Mike Hickman and was quickly snapped up by Power.

Langdon is more comfortable in a left midfield role but will likely have to play second fiddle to Damian Brown unless Power coach Davie Mitchell reshuffles his side.

"A big factor of my decision is that now I can move home to Campbelltown and be with my family,'' Langdon said of his decision to join Power.

"I am expecting good things for next season and joining the Power will mean a fresh start."

Power started off their Asian jaunt with a 4-3 penalty shoot-out win over Chinese side Yunan Hongta in front of a 16,000 crowd.

Included in Mitchell's touring party are Leo Carle from Rockdale, Englishman Wayne O'Sullivan and Brisbane youngster Steve Fitzsimmons.

Mitchell is keen to sign the trio if they impress on tour.

The Parramatta club has also released a number of its apprentices and clearly Mitchell intends to strengthen a squad which last season lacked quality.

But he might find it hard to replace forwards Joel Griffiths and Joe Miller, the J Men.

On their days both players were match winners but Mitchell often clashed behind the scenes with the fiery Griffiths who was the club's leading goalscorer in their inaugural season two years ago.

Miller was cut as a cost-saving exercise as the west Sydney club reeled its finances in following a disastrous year at the turnstiles.

Meanwhile Power are being linked with Wollongong's tough-guy defender, David Cervinski.

Mitchell and his coaching assistants have paid a few visits to Wollongong to run the eye over their out of contract players and a move for the talented Cervinski may be imminent.

However, they may yet have to beat off Sydney Olympic.

Olympic coach Branko Culina is a big admirer of Cervinski, who played for him at both North Geelong and Melbourne Knights.

"David is a talented player and the kind of guy any coach would want in his set-up," admitted Culina.

"He's out of contract and I would expect a few clubs to be speaking to him."

That interest is good news for Cervinski who seems to be the unwanted man in the Wolf pack.

FROM OUR ARCHIVES

GEORGE Smith was renowned as a great centre forward in pre NSW federation days. The giant policeman captained Australia and also played club football with St George, Granville, Metters and Corrimal Rangers.

Ali set to shine in S League with Gombak

By Adam Leto

FORMER Parramatta Eagles player Alioune Badara Ndiaye or Ali as he is better known has signed with Singapore-based Gombak United.

The 19-year-old was born in Senegal, A in Sydney. He played most of this season for Parramatta reserves, before getting a call-up to the first team for the final games of the season.

His under 19's coach Vic Ellul was full of praise for the talented youngster.

"Ali, has the ability to turn a game inside out," said Ellul. "I've coached him for a couple of years and he's just dynamite.

"He was mainly used as an impact player, and he certainly made a difference when he came on.

Ndiaye scored 19 goals in 20 games for Parramatta reserves, most of those coming off the bench.

"The speed this kid has got is amazing," explains Ellul.

"I remember one game against Wollongong when we were down two nil at halftime.

"I brought him on in the second half and he scored a hat-trick and we won the game.

"He's just lightning.

Ellul is confident Ndiaye has what it takes to play at a higher level.

"He'll fit in really well in Singapore," says Ellul.

"He's a really good kid who is extremely easy to coach.

"He used to turn up early to training.

"He is the type of player who would listen to what you had to say, he always wanted to learn."

Bruce Campbell

TALKING FOOTBALL

LAST Saturday I took the opportunity to watch a football game; nothing unusual in that—except for the fact that it could have been in outer space for all the local awareness.

The game wasn't advertised, it wasn't even sign posted at the ground and when I strolled in I found that there was no public address, no scoreboard and definitely no programme. No big deal, I suppose, it looked like a youth game so there was perhaps no expectation of any attempt to inform the general public.

After half an hour I still didn't have a clue although I had worked out who the clubs were even although one of the goalkeepers had on a Manchester United shirt, which I found a bit bizarre, while the person who appeared to be his coach slipped between English and Macedonian.

One of the parents told me that it was a Division 1 Under 16 Youth League game between Illawarra Lions and Ryde City. That little bit of knowledge heightened my pleasure as I watched some nice play—and some fairly average play also.

I am sure that the players would have been more interested in the better playing facilities on offer rather than the lack of public awareness about their game. I also found it interesting to see a lot of mannerisms emerging from the players' obvious role models, the professionals. Some weren't that clever, like the hands-on-hips 'I've lost the ball but it's your fault look'.

But some were, like the side volley from one of the Ryde players or a first time half volley from his young team-mate which was well saved by the Illawarra keeper. I wondered what the effect on the standard would be if there was a public announcement or even a photo copy of the players' names, would it make them more professional, would it help them achieve their dreams of being the next Harry Kewell or Mark Bosnich? Who knows, but surely it wouldn't hurt.

It might even help the stray journalist who wants to help promote these kids. It might even have been a buzz for the above three mentioned players whose names, to me at least, are lost somewhere in a sea of shirt numbers.

I confess I haven't seen a lot of NSW Youth League football and every time I see a game I get frustrated because I want to know who the players are, I want some information on the game but most of all I want to see these stars of tomorrow get the kind of respect that merits their commitment to the game.

These kids deserve the best of coaches, not some wild man berating them on the sidelines as happened in that match. How can you expect anyone to do his best when his ability is minimised in front of not only his peers but his parents. If a young player isn't good enough then he should be helped during training but once he crosses that white line, and with minor instruction, he should be allowed to play his game.

Of course, that is pure personal opinion and I am sure that there is at least one person who was at that game who will disagree. Next season will see another major change in the structure of the senior youth leagues in New South Wales. At this stage it doesn't appear certain exactly what will happen as there are differences of opinion over the plans to reduce the size of the various leagues.

But maybe we should be getting the basics right before we worry to much about the icing on the cake. The kids deserve that, at least.

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Australia's FOOTBALL WEEKLY speaks to the past Warren Medallists ....

By Frank Risorto

THE WARREN MEDAL INTERVIEWS
No 3: Paul Trimboli

The coveted Warren Medal is named in honour of Johnny Warren, former St George star midfielder, Socceroo captain and an icon in the modern Australian game.
He is remembered by older fans for his sharp passing, ability to hold the ball up and terrier-like tenacity.
The Warren Medal is awarded to Australia's NSL Player of the Year and in this exclusive series *SuperSoccer* interviews all of the past winners.

YEAR	PLAYER OF THE YEAR
1977	[illegible] Rooney (Marconi Fairfield)
197[illegible]	[illegible] Boden (Newcastle KB United)
197[illegible]	[illegible] (Marconi Fairfield)
1980	[illegible] Hamilston (Brisbane Lions)
1981	Bobby Russell (Adelaide City)
1982	Peter Katholos (Sydney C[illegible]
1983	[illegible] Watson (Sydney City)
198[illegible]	[illegible]
1985	[illegible]
198[illegible]	[illegible]
1[illegible]	[illegible]
1[illegible]	[illegible]
1[illegible]	[illegible]
89/90	[illegible]
90/91	[illegible]
91/92	[illegible]
92/93	[illegible]
93/9[illegible]	[illegible]
94/95	Mark Viduka (Melbourne Knights)
95/96	Damian Mori (Adelaide City)
96/97	Kresimir Marusic (Sydney United)
97/98	Paul Trimboli (South Melbourne)
98/99	Brad Maloney (Marconi Fairfield)
99/0[illegible]	Scott Chipperfield (Wollongong Wolves)

[illegible] Player of the Year award was voted by the media until 1988. In 1989 players' award was instituted and after 1988 it replaced the media award as the only award presented at the NSL Awards Night. Currently, the Player of the Year is awarded the Warren Medal.

PAUL Trimboli really could do no more in what has been a fantastic National Soccer League career.

He's played for the Socceroos, just played his 400th game in the NSL (3rd highest in NSL history), captained South Melbourne to the inaugural World Club Championships in Brazil last year, won three NSL Championships and so the list goes on.

Trimboli has done very well on a personal level as well.

He won the Under 21 NYL Player of the Year twice in 1988 and 1989 as well as the Warren Medal twice, first in the 1992/93 season and then 1997/98.

For Trimboli that 92/93 season and awards night is still vivid in his memory.

"It was one of those years where we won a lot of games," says Trimboli.

"We only lost a couple of games all year and then we had a big crisis right in the finals.

"Injuries, suspensions, sicknesses and anything else, it all happened at once.

"And we lost our way and got thumped 7-0 in the away leg to Marconi.

"Then in the next final we tried to re-group against Adelaide but we lost there too.

"It was one of those seasons that was fantastic in the league but the finals were something you want to forget.

"On the night of the awards I knew I had a chance because they announce the nominations before the ceremony.

"So being a former winner of the Under 21 award they asked me to come and present that award to that year's winner and if I could come a day before to do a rehearsal.

"So I went to rehearsal at the ballroom where it was held.

"I'm sitting there and going through what's going to happen on the night and taking me through what I have to do.

"I was sitting there waiting for my turn to practice when the people that were presenting the Warren Medal were doing their bit.

"Then they showed the nominations they had on a screen behind them.

"The two guys who were presenting it came out and went through the nominees again.

"They had no sound but then they flashed it on the screen behind them.

"And it had my name.

"There was nobody else there, I was sitting by myself.

"When I saw that I thought 'no way'.

"The two guys reading it out didn't realise I was sitting there and then I thought 'I have won it'.

"It sort of spoiled the surprise but I have been at other awards night when you are nominated and you can get really nervous.

"So everybody on the South table was nervous and wanted me to win but I hadn't told anybody what happened.

"And I was the calmest person there because I knew I won.

"The other thing that was going through my mind was what if I read it wrong and I didn't win.

"But it was still a relief when they read out my name."

"As for the 1997/98 season, South Melbourne blew everybody away.

"We won the NSL championship that season and then backed it up the next season to become the first NSL back-to-back champions since Marconi in***** 1989/90."

Trimboli was playing some of his best football and was red-hot favourite to win the 'Warren Medal'.

"It's hard to compare the two years because we had a great year," he says.

"But the team was fantastic again, we won the League Premiership as well.

"The second time was probably more enjoyable in the sense that when I won the first one I was young and we had a really poor finals whereas in 1998 when we won the League Premiership we won the Grand Final in dramatic circumstances.

"I won the player of the year and Ange Postecoglou, who is a good friend of mine, won the coach of the year.

"It was sort of a fairy tale occasion because everyone who was there was on a real high, it was unreal, everybody was buzzing."

Trimboli, is probably the most recognisable South Melbourne player and could be considered the 'face of South Melbourne'.

He's had his share of disappointments in his career but more happy memories than sad.

And he believes it stems from the decision not to go overseas in the late '80s.

"I have had such a wonderful time here," Trimboli said.

"I have been at a great club, great players, had some success and maybe it would have been interesting to go but if I did none of this would have been possible.

"South Melbourne is a real home for me, it's like a family and that's why I like going there everyday and don't get sick of the place.

"I operate best when I'm in a comfortable environment.

"Plus I've been fortunate to play at a great club where you always have a strong team around you and you're always competitive.

"It makes it easier to play.

"But the most disappointing thing in my career would have to be I've played in five losing Preliminary Finals and four of them were in a row.

"So that takes it out of you and that's five Grand Finals I could have played in.

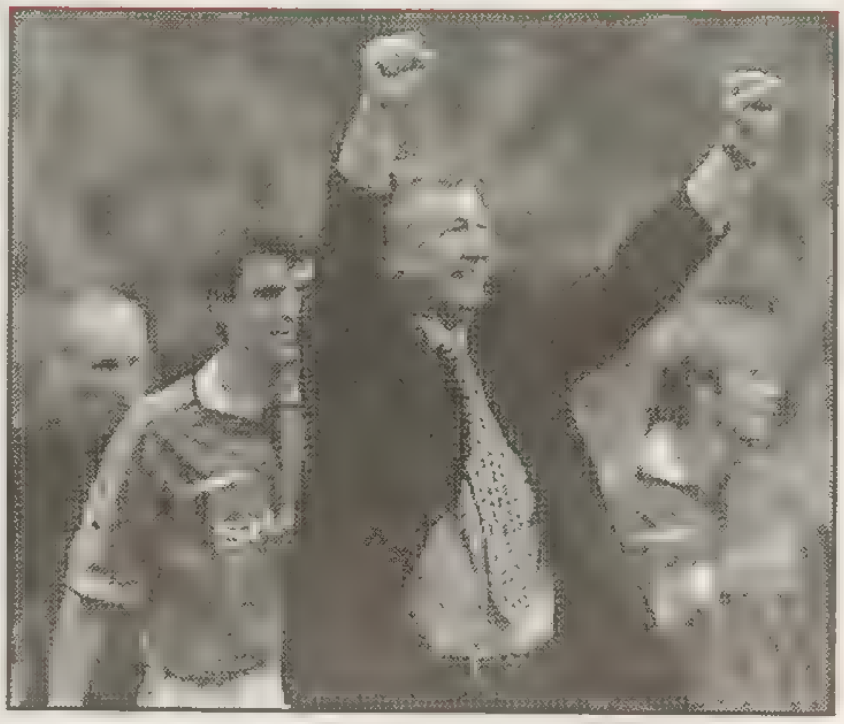
"But on the other hand I've been lucky enough to win three Grand Finals, so they are definitely the highlights.

"Like I said I've been very fortunate."

And I think we could all say the same thing, for having the opportunity to watch Trimboli play.

FactFILE
Name: Paul Trimboli
D.O.B: 25 Feburary 1969
Previous Clubs: Brighton, Sunshine George Cross
Current Club: South Melbourne
Socceroo Caps: 36
Socceroo Goals: 11
NSL Games: 401
NSL Goals: 110
HONOURS:
U16 World Championships 1985 (China)
1985 VSF Weinstein Medal - Junior Award
1986 Nth Div Youth Player of the Year
World Youth Cup 1987 (Chile)
1988 and 1989 NSL Under 21 Player of the Year
3 time NSL Champion (90/91, 97/98, 98/99)
1999 Oceania Championship
2 time NSL Cup winner (92/93, 97/98)
2 time NSL Player of the Year (92/93, 97/98)
6 time SMSC Player of the Year (Mamaras Award)
Played in the inaugural World Club Championships Brazil 2000

One more season then I'm off, Ferguson says



ALEX Ferguson said he would still be Manchester United's manager next season but insisted there was no chance of his staying longer at the club in any capacity.

Ferguson was speaking after the champions' 3-1 defeat at Tottenham Hotspur on Saturday in their last league game of the season, a day after he announced his intention to walk away from Old Trafford when he steps down as manager in a year.

The man who has led United to seven premier league titles in nine years had hoped to stay at the club, possibly as a director, but discussions with officials broke down last week leading to speculation that he could walk out now.

The 59-year-old Ferguson, though, said he still expected to be in charge of the team next season.

"My intention is to be here next year and I'm looking forward to it.

"This is a great bunch of players who've shown over the years they have a certain character and team spirit that is special, and I look forward to working with them next year.

"I had hoped there would be another role, but that's gone now.

"We've exhausted that.

"It's not a shock -- I half expected it and was not really holding out too much hope -- it's a disappointment but these things happen in football and I'm not the only manager who has suffered that.

"You just have to get over it.

"My son (Jason) had been talking to (chief executive) Peter Kenyon for some time, but I've closed the door on that now and it's important for me to finish this business - there's no mileage in it for me.

"I hope it does not destroy the wonderful time I've had.

"It's important to me that I complete my final year and go out with my head held high knowing I've enjoyed the 16 years I will have completed at the club.

"I've turned down a few opportunities to do something thinking I would be at United but I want to be active and that's why I wanted to make the point that I will be working somewhere next year."

Ferguson said he had not ruled out a return to management with another club.

"Once you retire you can't just sit back and do nothing," he said.

"I've not really thought about it, I don't know what I will do.

"The opportunity may present itself in a hundred different ways, I might go away and paint or something, there are a lot of things I could do."

Ferguson was also asked about his assistant Steve McClaren, who has been linked with the vacant manager's jobs at West Ham United and Southampton.

"Steve's had a lot of offers that I am sure he is going to consider but he has not spoken to anyone yet," he said

"I'm not surprised.

"He's an outstanding man, honest, straight as a die, greatly respected by the players.

"But I can't make up his mind for him - he's his own man."

Chipperfield looking for double warren Medal success

WOLLONGONG'S Scott Chipperfield, the 2000 Warren Medal winner, Marconi striker Archie Thompson, Damian Mor and Bobby Despotovski from Perth Glory and South Melbourne's Con Boutsianis are the five nominations for this year's prestigious NSL Player of the Year award.

The NSL Awards Night will be held on Saturday 9 June, at the Star City Grand Harbour Ballroom.

Other awards and nominees include: -

Under-21 Player-of-the-Year - The Papasavas Medal: Ben Burgess (Northern Spirit), Ljubo Milicevic (Perth Glory), Greg Owens (Sydney Olympic)

Goalkeeper of the Year: Clint Bolton (Sydney Olympic), Jason Petkovic (Perth Glory), Michael Petkovic (Perth Glory)

Youth Player of the Year - Northern Division: Anthony Doumanis (Sydney Olympic), Adam Hughes (Newcastle United), Matthew McKay (QAS/AIS)

Youth Player of the Year - Southern Division: Massimo Murdocca (South Melbourne), Daniel Rocco (VIS/Melbourne Knights) Milan Sajkic (Fawkner Blues)

Admiral Referee of the Year: Edward Lennie, Simon Micallef, Mark Shield

Admiral Assistant Referee of the Year: John Bowdler (NSW), John Peacock (QLD), Paul Smith (NZ)

Minor Premiers: South Melbourne

Fair Play Award: Kingz FC

Huseyn and Devrimol united

By Adam Leto

RECENT AC United signings Devrim Huseyn and Tayfun Devrimol have already made an impact on the Fairfield-based team.

The pair were signed from the Bonnyrigg White Eagles and are fitting in with United's style of play.

"There is a great atmosphere within the team, and the guys are really starting to believe in themselves," says Huseyn.

"Everybody is training well, and the new guys are fitting in well.

"We've had a slow start to the competition but we've shown that we can match it with the best teams."

One of the assets that Huseyn and Devrimol bring to the club, is a great on-field chemistry.

"Myself and Devrim have been playing soccer together since we were 8 years old," Devrimol says.

"We have a good understanding of how each other plays.

"Most of the time I know what he is going to do, and he knows what I'm going to do.

"At the moment we're both just really enjoying our football and it's showing on the pitch."

It certainly is, with both players chosen to represent New South Wales in the upcoming series between Queensland and Victoria.

"I'm delighted, it's a great privilege and hopefully we can perform well," Huseyn said.

"Myself and Tayfun are the two youngest players in the squad and the expectations are high.

Huseyn and Devrimol are now concentrating their efforts on helping AC United move up the ladder.

"I think that we are definitely capable of making the finals," stated Devrimol.

"The team is only going to get better as the season progresses."

Krncevic sacked by Marconi

By Adam Leto and Bruce Campbell

MARCONI Stallions coach Eddie Krncevic last Friday said he was happy staying at the club, despite an inconsistent season.

"I'm happy where I am," said Krncevic who spoke candidly to *SuperSoccer* unaware that a hastily scheduled board meeting was set to oust him.

"I'm still contracted with the club and I think with the players we have we can do well next season. We've had a fair amount of distractions.

"Injuries, suspensions and players leaving to play overseas have certainly had an affect."

The Stallions lost Chad Gibson and Darren McDonald to overseas clubs while Buddy Farrah and Archie Thompson also missed a bulk of matches.

"People have to realise that when you have to chop and change your squad, that it will have an effect on performance," Krncevic said.

"I was proud of the boys effort against Sydney Olympic in the quarter final, they showed a lot of courage.

"Considering everything that's happened this season I think what we've done is an achievement."

Decisions regarding the future of Krncevic and certain players were set to be decided when he was due to meet with the Marconi Board later this week.

However, the board convened on Saturday and sacked the former Carlton coach.

Immediately speculation mounted that former Marconi boss Manfred Schaefer was in line for a recall.

Sacked Newcastle coach Lee Sterrey and Mike Urukalo are also on the highly fancied list.

Socceroo Kewell a father

SOCCEROO Harry Kewell's fiance, actress Sheree Murphy, gave birth to a 4.3kg boy on Friday night. Kewell, 22, was present throughout the birth at Leeds General Infirmary after driving her 20 km from their home in Linton, West Yorkshire, on Thursday.

ALL THE NSL CHAMPIONSHIP ACTION

Too good an opportunity

Dean Anastasiadis: a face in the crowd

By Frank Risorto

WOLLONGONG Wolves goalkeeper Dean Anastasiadis is a long way from Melbourne but is more than content with life at WIN Stadium.

Anastasiadis was signed by the Wolves from Carlton in February after the demise of the Blues earlier this season.

Wollongong started the season with two keepers in Grant Barlow and Daniel Beltrame but neither one cemented their place as number one.

After training with the club to regain match-fitness Anastasiadis made his Wollongong debut with a substitute appearance in a 5-2 victory against the Melbourne Knights and hasn't looked back since.

"At the start I was very nervous and pretty anxious to do well," says Anastasiadis.

"There were times when it was a bit shaky and we had some communication problems but we are developing confidence with each other.

"Being a goalkeeper is 50 per cent confidence and being confident and being assure of your defence helps.

Wollongong are currently one of the favourites to take out the National Soccer League title and Anastasiadis is enjoying his time back in the game after Carlton folded.

"It was worrying when Carlton went and I was very close to signing with the Kingz," he said. "We had agreed pretty much on everything and when the Wollongong offer come in I had no hesitation in coming."

"They were in PNG at the time for the Oceania Championships and I didn't know what was going on.

"So when they did approach me I couldn't have turned down an opportunity to be at a club like this."

Starting 10 games with Wollongong Anastasiadis was dropped after poor form though he now feels he has earned his place in the side.

Now 30-years-old Anastasiadis believes he can keep playing at NSL level for another two or three years.

"I have another 18 months left on my contract at Wollongong and just wan to do well here," Anastasiadis said.

"Everybody here has been great but I don't want to be one of those keepers who outstays their welcome.

"Fighting for the number one position is what I want to be doing and as long as I am doing that then I will be happy."

NATIONAL SOCCER LEAGUE
TOP SIX CHAMPIONSHIP SERIES
2000-2001

PARRA POLICE SPRAY KNIGHTS MORONS

SOCCER Australia has reacted quickly to the disgraceful scenes by a group of mindless morons purporting to represent Melbourne Knights on Sunday at Parramatta Stadium.

In an official release Soccer Australia said that it " wishes to advise that while the match between Sydney Olympic and Melbourne Knights was incident free, there was an incident involving fans outside of the ground, after the match."

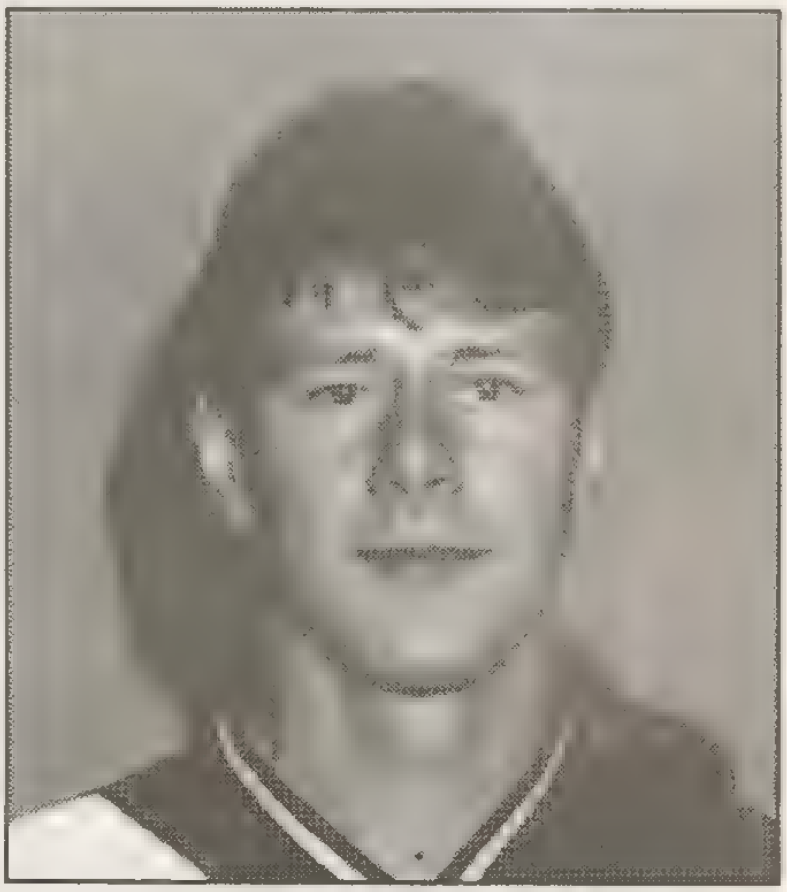
Senior Sergeant Ian Watson from Parramatta Police, said after the game: "There was a situation where a number of uniformed police were surrounded by fans, and there were punches thrown, the crowd mulled around, and we did use capsicum spray, as some of the officers feared for their safety.

"The situation could have developed, but the police and the security showed considerable restraint which resulted in a quieter resolution of the situation.

"I don't have any great concerns, it was well handled, and while a couple of our officers received minor injuries, there is no great concern."

Senior Sergeant Watson was also complimentary of the security and policing arrangements within the Stadium, during the course of the match.

Wolves are unique: Cervinski



David Cervinski: looking forward to playing in his fourth Grand Final

SOUTH MELBOURNE 2
WOLLONGONG WOLVES 1

ON SUNDAY Wollongong brushed aside crushing off-field disappointments to beat South Melbourne and qualify for their second successive National Soccer League grand final.

The Wolves learned on Saturday that their expected $5million windfall from appearing at the World Club Championships, scheduled for July in Spain, had been lost when FIFA cancelled the tournament.

South Melbourne had not lost at Bob Jane Stadium for more than a year, and the Wolves had never won there.

But they outplayed the championship favourites from the outset and, after a goalless first half, went through 4-2 on aggregate.

Wolves coach Ron Corry said "everyone was shattered" by the FIFA announcement.

"That was out of our control and this match was not out of our control," Corry said.

"We had to pick ourselves up and get ourselves back in shape for the day."

Wollongong defender David Cervinski said the players' ability to overcome the disappointment of the FIFA ruling was a further example of the team ethos which helped the Wolves turn around a 3-0 deficit in last year's grand final to draw level before winning 7-6 on penalties in Perth.

"The hard part is over, the announcement was a shock to everyone," Cervinski said.

"The boys were down, there's no two ways about it, but we gelled and bonded together and we went out to show everyone in Australian soccer you can't let things get you down.

"That is why we are a unique team.

"We did it last year, no-one gave us a chance in Perth, but team spirit and the will to win pulled us through, and it was the same today."

Wolves captain Matt Horsley opened the scoring in the 50th minute after he ghosted into the box to head home a Stuart Young cross.

South coach Mick Petersen responded by bringing on New Zealand international Vaughan Coveny in the 60th minute.

Seven minutes later he made it 1-1 when a Con Boutsianis shot was fumbled by Wolves keeper Dean Anastasiadis and Coveny bundled it over the line.

Wollongong's winner came after an uncharacteristic defensive error by Mehmet Durakovic.

The experienced South defender headed a high ball directly to Young, who rolled the ball to Saso Petrovski to shoot past keeper Michael Petkovic.

South must pick themselves up and beat Sydney Olympic if they are to set up a grand final rematch with the Wolves.

"There is still a grand final to be played in two weeks. We are still alive, we just have to go the hard way," Petersen said.

SOUTH MELBOURNE 1 (Coveny 67
WOLLONGONG WOLVES 2 (Horsley 50, Petrovski)
Yellow cards: David Huxley (WW) 37'
Venue: Bob Jane Stadium
Referee: Simon Micallef
Crowd: 10,113
SOUTH MELBOURNE: Michael Petkovic (gk), Steve Iosifidis, Fausto De Amicis, Mehmet Durakovic, Steve Panopoulos, Paul Trimboli (Vas Kalogeracos 67'), Con Boutsianis, John Anastasiadis, Andy Vlahos, Goran Lozanovski (John Anastasiadis 73'), Zeljko Susa (Vaughan Coveny 60'), Simon Colosimo
WOLLONGONG WOLVES:
Dean Anastasiadis (gk), George Souris, Alvin Ceccoli, David Cervinski, Matthew Horsley, Paul Reid, Saso Petrovski, Stuart Young, Scott Chipperfield (Robert Stanton 80'), David Huxley, Ben Blake

Juric header kills off plucky Knights

NATIONAL SOCCER LEAGUE
TOP SIX CHAMPIONSHIP SERIES
2000-2001

By Bruce Campbell

SYDNEY OLYMPIC 1
MELBOURNE KNIGHTS 0

IT CERTAINLY wasn't an example of free-flowing and crowd-pleasing football but last Sunday's Minor Semi Final at Parramatta Stadium had its own level of interest.

It might best be described as a 'coach's game' and if Branko Culina won that particular battle over Andrew Marth then he had more than a shade of luck on the day.

Lucky that referee Eddie Lennie had probably his worst ever display, lucky that a perfectly good penalty was denied and lucky that his captain managed to get his head on the end of one of the few really good moves of the game.

For their part Melbourne Knights slightly shaded Sydney Olympic in almost every department except where it counts and as a result of that second half goal Olympic can still carry the torch for the rest of the harbour city.

With 69 minutes on the clock Pablo Cardozo, who had a quiet afternoon by his own high standards, sent a perfect in-swinging cross.

He first had to send his marker in the wrong direction before perfectly connecting with his left boot.

Rody Vargas, who had an otherwise impeccable afternoon in the heart of the Knights defence mis-timed his jump and with the extra space Ante Juric rose high to send the ball past a stranded Lupce Acevski in the Knights goal.

It always looked like a game where one goal would be enough and so it turned out.

Acevski, who had also otherwise a fine game, would have to hold his hand up for the goal which went in at his unprotected far post—the keeper stranded at the near post and motionless.

The game had started brightly enough with Cardozo taking much of the early play.

The ground's surface also looked surprisingly good after having first hosting a rugby league match the night before.

Gradually, however, the Knights came more and more into the match.

Ivan Jolic did a stoic job in shackling Olympic playmaker Kresimir Marusic and Cardozo was forced to drift deeper and deeper to get some service.

That soon settled into the pattern of play for much of the first half, a period which was generally fought out in the middle third.

Andy Vargas pulled a hamstring as early as the 13th minute and was replaced by Dragi Nastevski who was perhaps the best player on the ground.

Acevski had most of the early action and had to make two smart saves as Knights opted for a game of containment.

Adrian Cervinski was also well looked after by his opposite, Scott Baillie, and even Troy Halpin was forced to play more in the back line than the middle of the park.

With 34 minutes on the clock referee Lennie denied a perfect claim for a penalty.

Kiratzoglou turned his markers inside out before sending a through ball to the lively Nastevski who was hauled back by the shirt-tugging George Goutzioulis.

It was a penalty and the only person who didn't see it was Lennie.

It wasn't the only incident that the Perth-based Scotsman missed either as he turned a series of certain yellow cards into fouls and fouls into play

He copped plenty of verbal from the Melbourne Knights side of the crowd but even worse was to come when his far-side assistant was struck with a missile.

The game was stopped while the official received treatment for a gash.

Porter could have equalized shortly after when his waltzing run took him past three Olympic defenders but his shot was off target.

A long range speculative shot from Nastevski as the half was ticking to a close was the only serious threat to Bolton who took the ball easily.

But the top keeper had to be at his best just seconds later to take another Nastevski shot.

The introduction of Leo Carle for Olympic at half time was certainly a little of what the doctor ordered.

Given a free role by Culina the little forward darted about and generally caused the Melbourne Knights defence problems.

"I felt that Knights were nullifying every playmaker we had so I brought him on," said Culina after the match.

"He certainly proved the difference and I was pleased with the way he handled it all."

Baillie became one of Eddie Lennie's glitches when he luckily evaded a yellow card after almost throttling Cervinski.

Undoubtedly Knights weakest link was Ransford Banini who looked flat and slow on the right side.

But Olympic failed to penetrate this area and instead moved the ball more to the right where Marusic was, like Cardozo, well and truly pocketed by some tight Knights defending.

Just four minutes after Juric put his side into the lead the Knights were dealt a mortal blow when Banini was sent off after colliding with Goutzioulis. .

It appeared that both players went into a sliding tackle with studs showing but Banini connected with an elbow and got his marching orders.

But even then Olympic failed to exploit the gap.

Marusic could have sealed the match but his low drive whistled past the upright.

The last chance of the match fell to Knights when Joel Porter's in-swinging corner was only partially fisted clear by Bolton.

The ball fell invitingly to Cervinski who had to turn to control a difficult ball but his resulting shot was blazed over the bar.

The introduction of Carle was probably Olympic's match winning move and he will almost certainly partner Cardozo up front against South Melbourne on Sunday.

SYDNEY OLYMPIC 1 (Ante Juric 68')
MELBOURNE KNIGHTS 0
Yellow Cards: A Kiratzoglou (MK) 38', R Vargas (MK) 67', A Juric (SO) 75'
Red Cards: R Banini (MK) 76'
Venue: Parramatta Stadium Referee: Edward Lennie Crowd: 7,649
SYDNEY OLYMPIC STARTING LINE-UP:
Clint Bolton (gk), Paul Kohler, Scott Baillie, Ante Juric, Kresimir Marusic, Troy Halpin, Damon Collina (Damon Collina 46'), George Goutzioulis, Elias Augerinos, Pablo Cardozo (Dylan MacAllister 88'), Andrew Packer
MELBOURNE KNIGHTS STARTING LINE-UP:
Lupce Acevski (gk), Rody Vargas, Saso Ognenovski, Joel Porter, Ransford Banini, Alex Kiratzoglou, Andy Vargas (Dragi Nastevski 13'), Toto Da Costa, Steve Horvat, Adrian Cervinski, Ivan Jolic

Cardozo, he's the best striker in Australia: Culina

By Adam Leto

SYDNEY Olympic striker Pablo Cardozo is the best striker in Australia, according to Olympic coach Branko Culina.

"I regard Pablo as the best striker in Australia.," the Olympic boss said.

"The thing about Pablo is that he can make his own chances.

"He is the complete package, he can shoot, pass and score.

"He can do it all.

Cardozo's form this season, has been excellent, having scored 14 goals in 20 games.

In particular his form towards the end of the season and in the finals, must have him in contention for a place in the Australian World Cup qualifying squad.

Despite his sparkling displays of late, a modest Cardozo, still didn't fancy his chances of inclusion in the squad.

"The boys that are there now have done a good job," said Cardozo.

"I don't think Frank will be changing things around too much.

"Someone like Damien Mori, who's been leading the NSL scorers for so long can't even get a run.

"He's the best striker in Australia and doesn't even get a look.

"I usually finish second or third to him on the scorers' charts.

"If he's not getting picked then I don't really like my chances.

"But you never know, if there are injuries or something like that happens I might get a call."

It is no coincidence that Olympic's sparkling run into the finals, has mirrored the outstanding form of Cardozo.

"I've been getting good service from midfield, players like Marusic and Halpin have been playing well," says Cardozo.

"But at the same time I've been getting myself into good scoring positions, which is good.

"At this stage of the season though, it doesn't matter who is scoring, as long as we're winning."

Parramatta Grand Final

THE 2001 NSL Grand Final will be held at Parramatta Stadium with a 3pm kick off on June 3.

While exact details of the match had not been detailed as *SuperSoccer* went to print a source at Soccer Australia indicated that Sydney would be the venue for the game.

"It isn't realistic to hold it at Wollongong," our source told us

"While it would be great for the Wolves we all have to look at the bigger picture. ,

"It hasn't been confirmed yet but at this stage it looks odds-on that it will be held at Parramatta Stadium with an afternoon kick off."

Wollongong Wolves will play the winner of Sunday's Preliminary Final between Sydney Olympic and South Melbourne.

Wollongong Stadium, has a capacity of about 13,000 but only a third of that is seated.

Other facilities at the stadium, which will undergo a revamp in the winter, are extremely poor.

In particular press facilities are almost non-existent and are the butt of continual jokes amongst the soccer press corps.

Vision is restricted while the press area holds seating for only eight.

In comparison Parramatta Stadium has a range of press facilities which would adequately seat 50 journalists, numerous radio boxes and a TV platform.

Additionally there is scope to add another 100 press seats.

Wollongong Stadium has secured part of the Homebush swimming venue stands and will add a northern standard this winter which will increase the seated capacity by another 6,500.

No plans have been released for updating the antideluvian press facilities.

Bruce Campbell

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SUPER SOCCER'S NSW STATE BIG MATCH REPORT

Smithies hat trick sinks Hurstville

By Greg Stock

HURSTVILLE ZSC 2
SYDNEY UNIVERSITY 4

SYDNEY University striker Rob Smithies is normally a happy go lucky chap.

In fact his infectious smile on the park is often the most distinguishing feature of a player with immense talent.

After knocking in three quality goals and leading his side to a victory over the previously unbeaten Hurstville Zagreb side last Wednesday night, Smithies was again all smiles.

And why not.

"It's not every day you knock over the league leaders," said Smithies after the match.

"I got up this morning and thought, this is it, this is the day I feel like scoring some goals."

After losing defender David Marsaglia with an ankle injury inside the first five minutes, the students were seemingly on the back foot.

That is until Smithies literally took the game by the scruff of the neck.

Sitting in some space just outside the penalty box, Smithies took one touch on a Freddy Umlil through ball and sent a drive well over 25 yards untouched into the back of the net.

Hurstville goalkeeper Robert Mustapic could do little but just look and shake his head as the scorer took off to celebrate with his team mates in front of the grandstand.

After leveling the scores with a well taken Anthony Alilovic free kick in the 19th minute, Hurstville again fell behind just three minutes later, this time to a Mark Williamson goal.

The architect was again Rob Smithies as he turned the defenders with another long range effort, only to see the ball cannon into the post and the scraps fall to a waiting Williamson.

It was no different in the second half either.

The slow and sluggish Hurstville defence fell the full wroth of Smithies as he added further goals in the 56th and 78th minutes.

His second was another strike from just inside the area and his third a brilliant solo effort.

Riding a couple of rough tackles along the left hand touchline, Smithies cut inside.

Slipping behind the stranded Zagreb defence, he drew out the 'keeper before sliding his effort just inside the right hand upright.

"The goal was all class," agreed Sydney University coach Stewart Porter.

"Rob (Smithies) was inspiring tonight and led from the front.

"We struggled earlier on this season but we were at our best tonight and hopefully from here the good form will continue."

Hurstville coach John Gagro agreed.

"Smithies is a quality act and our defence were unable to contain him," he said.

"He was quick and he took his chances, whereas we were a little complacent and we struggled."

While Smithies had a day out for the students, Hurstville did try hard and there were a few positives in the loss.

Despite having influential striker Tony Mihaljevic well held by the University defence, midfielders Steve Zoric and Anthony Alilovic both had encouraging games.

"We won't panic," continued Gagro.

"We scored from two free kicks and with a bit of luck we may have been in it.

"We'll be back, I'm sure of that."

NSW Division 1
Hurstville ZSC 2 (A Alilovic 19' Babaic 89')
Sydney University 4 (Smithies 5' 56' 78' Williamson 22')
Venue: Seymour Shaw Park
Hurstville ZSC : Robert Mustapic, Ante Majetic, Robert Harmat, Robert Babaic, Bob Barasic, Ante Buntic (Robert Zubonja 70'), Denis Alilovic (Aldo Martincitt 63'), Stipe Milicevic (Ante Mrdjen 77'), Steve Zoric, Anthony Alilovic, Tony Mihaljevic; Coach : John Gagro.
Sydney University : James Meyer, Luke McDougall, Anthony Cheong, Matthew Crawford, Grant Wilson, Rob Smithies, Freddy Umlil, Mark Williamson (Paul Gray 80'), Steve Karovski, Paul Croci, David Marsiglia (Gavin Buddis 5' Ollie Comm 41'); Coach · Stewart Porter.

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Muniz happy with shock Hakoah win

By Andrew Aiton

NEPEAN 1
HAKOAH 3

CELLAR dwellers Hakoah had a shock win on Saturday night and left Nepean with their leadership aspirations dented and their fans disappointed.

Nepean moved to an early deserved lead but defensive errors were punished twice by Hakoah late in the first half and a determined second half performance allowed Hakoah to add to their lead and run out worthy winners.

With six of his first team players out injured, Hakoah Coach Agi Muniz had to add four Under 21s to his squad for the evening.

Nepean too had some injuries with second top goal scorer Daniel Lownds out as well as Peter Nolan who damaged his ankle in a training ground accident this week and is likely to be missing for a few weeks.

Nepean started off brightly and in the first 10 minutes it looked as though they would consolidate their position as the league's leading goalscoring machine.

Striker Andrew Quinnell impressed with his silky ball skills and speed and was combining well with Glen McPherson.

Brett Buckpitt was providing good service from midfield and Karim Balloot was covering a lot of ground.

So it was no surprise when in the 11th minute Quinnell jinked his way round two Hakoah defenders and laid on a pass for McPherson on the edge of the penalty area to convert without giving keeper Adam Sonnabend a chance.

Hakoah came into the game down the flanks with Dorin Karpes providing good service from midfield and a hard dipping free kick from the right by Phillip Opit almost led to an own goal by a jittery Nepean defence.

Nepean still threatened with two opportunities to McPherson - the first from some good leadup work from Quinnell and Balloot and the second from a solo run from the left with the shot just going past.

Then the wheels came off the Nepean defence when in the 35th Jason Wyngaard missed a low cross from the left allowing Karpes to score easily from close in and five minutes later when keeper Jarrod Bone failed to gather in a cross from the right and Terry Sperber took advantage of the confusion to give Hakoah a half time lead.

Hakoah responded with a five man attack pouring through in the 66th only to be denied by keeper Bone and a late surge by Hakoah in the 85th against a now dispirited Nepean saw Garry Martin joyfully convert a short corner play by Robbie Taylor and Sperber to add to Nepean's misery.

Nepean Coach Paul Brown was not too happy with his team.

He said: "We lost possession too often in midfield and allowed them to attack us down our flanks and the efforts of one or two of our players left something to be desired."

Coach Agi Muniz was quite pleased with Hakoah's performance.

He said: "Despite the injuries our team has been improving steadily over the last few games.

"We have a blend of youth and experience which is beginning to pay off and I told the boys at half time that they must prepare to withstand a Nepean comeback and they did all that I asked and more."

NSW Division 2
Nepean District 1 (G. McPherson 11m)
Hakoah 3 (D. Karpes 35m, T. Sperber 40m, G. Martin 85m)
Ground: Cook Park, St. Marys
Referee: Vic Gauci
Nepean District: J. Bone, C. Meek, K. Balloot, K Davies (R. Astone 70m), M. Tolland, A. Quinnell, G. McPherson, B. Elkatib (M. Downs 57m), B. Buckpitt, T Johnson (E. Husnu h/t), J. Wyngaard. Cautions: G.McPherson 55m, A. Quinnell 78m, B. Buckpitt 89m.
Hakoah: A. Sonnabend, L. Segre, P.Opit, G. Chester, R. Neumann, E. Neumann, D. Carpes, T. Sperber, G. Hurwitz, R. Taylor, R. Rimmer (G. Martin 67m). Cautions: Nil

SUPER SOCCER'S NSW YOUTH BIG MATCH REPORT

Thomas shines for Gunners

by Robert Scozzafava

ILLAWARRA LIONS 0
RYDE CITY 1

RYDE City scored a hard fought 1-0 win over the Illawarra Lions in the Under 16 First Division match at Macedonia Park, earning themselves an important three points.

The Illawarra Lions came into the match running last on the completion ladder with only one win from seven games, and in dire need of some goals, having only scored six in total so far.

Despite a heartening second half effort from the Lions, they did not do enough to overcome Ryde City's 10th minute strike from the right foot of Thomas.

The Lions started the first few minutes of the game promisingly creating a couple of early half chances that tested Ryde keeper Sgroi.

In the 9th minute, the Lions defense was caught napping as Ryde City pounced .to score the first and only goal of the game.

Ryde City forward Evans received a neat pass from the midfield and sent a curling cross from the right flank which was met by Thomas who was left unmarked, and after his first shot was stopped by Lions keeper Beer, he slotted the ball neatly into the back of the net.

The rest of the first half saw an even contest where both teams never really created any clear cut chances.

Lions inspirational captain Obednikovski went close twice with free kicks, but both shots seemed to have been well covered by reliable Ryde keeper Sgroi.

Ryde City suffered a blow in the 26th minute when goal-scorer Thomas had to be substituted due to a back injury.

In the second half, the Lions came out with a lot more commitment and passion in an attempt to overturn the one goal deficit.

Lions attacker Yilmaz created havoc for the Ryde defence with his brilliant first touch and darting runs through the centre of midfield but the Lions were unable to turn this dominance into any goals.

Ryde City created minimal chances as they just sat back and tried to defend their lead, while the Lions attacked with plenty of character but showed little conviction in front of goal.

The Lions failure to create any clear cut chances cost them dearly and this will have to be addressed by the coach if the Lions are to climb up from the bottom of the ladder.

In the end, the well organised Ryde City team held on to their 1-0 lead and went on to grab all three competition points which now gives them 13 points keeping them mid-table, while the Illawarra Lions will still be at the bottom of the ladder.

Ryde City's best players on the day were strikers Thom and Thomas and tiny midfielder Turner who effortlessly beat Lions players all match.

The best players for the Lions was the strong Obednikovski, who didn't stop chasing balls all day, and the crafty Yilmaz.

Division One Youth League U16
Illawarra Lions 0 Ryde City 1 (Thomas 9m)
Ground: Macedonia Field
Referee: K. Beretov
Illawarra Lions: Beer, DeAngelis (Kuper 54), Lopez, Kates, Garcia, Yilmaz, Wilson (Vescio 64), Obednikovski, Crossinsham, Kutup, Cabanas. Subs: Vescio, Kuper, Agagiu Cautions: Nil
Ryde City: Sgroi, Worsley, Akgul, Turner, Akar, Pendlebury, Marchetto (Orgad 60), Burnett, Thom (Davis 50), Thomas (Trinh 26), Evans. Subs: Orgad, Trinh, Davis. Cautions: Nil

Late Stallions raids sink Suburbs

by Robert Szoszkiewicz

MARCONI STALLIONS 5
EASTERN SUBURBS 0

A DOMINANT display by Marconi ensured them their 10th consecutive victory of the season and top spot on the table after a resounding 5-0 victory over a determined but outclassed Eastern Suburbs side.

Marconi looked the goods and seemingly had full control of this encounter despite a score-less opening term.

But it was the visitors who threatened to score first when Rabie pushed his shot wide following a clever Coghlan cross.

Marconi soon responded and within the space of 10 minutes, had no fewer then three opportunities to score.

The dynamic Rocky Stivala missed with a difficult header and soon after had a powerful shot brilliantly saved by Costa in goals.

Joe Duffell also went close, but was denied by further courageous keeping from the Eastern Suburbs number one.

Marconi attacked for the remainder of the half, but poor finishing and desperate scrambling defence by Easts resulted in both teams retreating to the break locked at 0-0.

Despite losing their second player to injury soon after half time, the Wanderers soldiered on and created another chance with Rabie finding himself in the clear.

With only the keeper to beat, he pushed his shot wide of the posts. in the 46th minute, Marconi finally hit the lead.

Pat Bevilacqua made a decisive burst down the right flank before passing on to Stivala who promptly laid it back to him.

Bevilacqua then beat two defenders before slotting the ball into the top left hand corner of the net. Four minutes later, Chris Theodosiou scored the hosts' second goal when he converted a timely Nick Mourinho pass.

Although Eastern Suburbs were gallant in defence, they weren't able to withstand a late Marconi barrage that saw three goals in the final six minutes.

Goals in the 64th and 66th minutes to replacement Andrew De Marco, the latter courtesy of a great run down the right wing by Matthew Burns, and a goal to Mourinho two minutes from time, sealed the 5-0 victory for Marconi.

Super Youth League - Under 15s
Marconi 5 (Bevilacqua 46, Theodosiou 50, De Marco 64, 66, Mourinho 68) Eastern Suburbs 0
Ground: Marconi No. 2
Referee: Ken Sharp
Marconi: Papadakis, Vaker, Pizzolato (Perinich 65), Carioti, Onyewueny (Bevilacqua 41), Minic, Stivala (Burns 52), Huseyin (De Marco 42), Mourinho, Theodosiou, Duffell SUBS. Bevilacqua, Burns, De Marco, Perinich, Chronopoulos Cautions: Nil
Eastern Suburbs: Costa, Joaquim, Arreu, Sykes, Parrab, Rikard-Bell, Coghlan, Howe (Nagy 22), Rabie (Beniameen 55), Savor, De Simoni (Snape 37) SUBS. Snape, Beniameen, Nagy, McKechnie Cautions: Stykes 67

YOUTH LEAGUE with Laki Konistis

THE Parramatta Eagles, compared to previous seasons have made a somewhat unaccustomed start to 2001 as far as its Pepsi Super Youth and Cadet League sides go.

But one should never underestimate the Eagles, because as many of last week's encouraging results against the Wollongong Wolves suggest they are actually well poised to swoop in the coming weeks.....

UNDER 11s: Goals have been difficult to come by for the youngest Eagles squad in recent times, and they must surely have been eager to bounce back after their 3-0 loss at the hands of the Central Coast last week.

Their opponents on the other hand remain undefeated, have two games in hand and are averaging 3 goals per game, making them formidable opponents.

In the end the form proved correct with Wollongong running out conclusive winners 3-1.

Players to watch out for from a future point of view are goalscorer Umet Tokdogan, Hussen Jasli and Jamie Gutierrez.

UNDER 12s: Both protagonists found themselves in the bottom half of the league ladder coming into this clash, with the Parramatta Eagles in particular keen to land their first win of the season after eight attempts.

But again it was Wollongong, and with a similar 3-1 scoreline that grabbed the points.

According to the club's Youth Convenor Terry Malecki "regardless of the results, both Cadets sides showed glimpses of form today and their seasons may just about be ready to turn the corner".

UNDER 13s: Goals have also been difficult to come by for Parramatta's 13s so far- managing a mere 6 goals in eight games played thus far- and hence the reason why they currently find themselves so low in this division.

This time however the solitary goal scored by the Eagles proved more than enough to ensure they scraped home with a hard fought 1-0 victory.

Players who have been going extremely well of late for the Eagles include, captain Alex Casale, Dale Southern, Mitchell McDonald, David Puglisi and Joel Bray.

UNDER 14s:
This fixture really promised to be an interesting clash as both sides were currently sitting just outside the Top Six and appeared evenly matched in many aspects.

Once again it was just one goal, scored by the home side which separated these two evenly matched sides.

The Eagles in their latest 1-0 win were well-served by players Tarek Elrich, Matthew Malouf and both David McDonald and Jason Browne who have also been selected in the 14s squad to take part in the upcoming Goodwill Games.

UNDER 15s:
The Parramatta Eagles would have been expecting to deliver the goods here as they were much higher on the competition ladder coming into this clash- and with one of the best defences in the league

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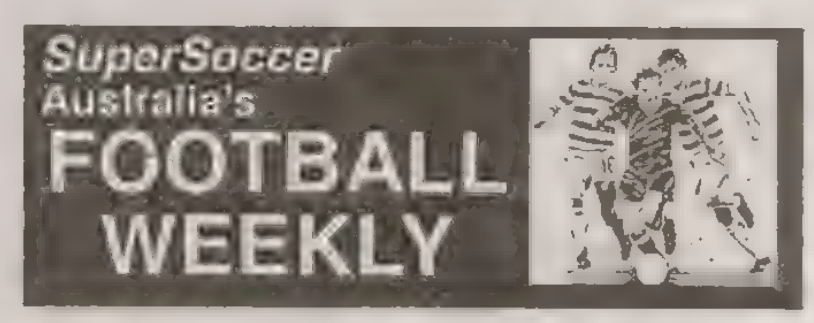

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WINTER SUPER LEAGUE (1ST, U21, U18): ROUND 11

Sat 26-May	Lynwood Park	7:00PM	5.00PM	3:00PM	Macarthur Rams	v	Hajduk Wanderers
Sun 27-May	Jensen Park	6:00PM	4:00PM	2.00PM	Bankstown City Lions	v	M.S.C Liverpool
Sat 26-May	Nineveh Field	7:00PM	5:00PM	3:00PM	Fairfield Bulls	v	Fraser Park Jets
Sun 27-May	Arlington Oval	3:00PM	1:00PM	11:00AM	Dulwich Hill	v	Hurstville City Minotaurs
Sun 27-May	Rockdale Sports	3:00PM	1:00PM	11:00AM	Rockdale City Suns	v	Stanmore Hawks
Sun 27-May	Cromer Park	3:00PM	1:00PM	11.00AM	Manly Warringah Dolphins	v	AC United

Round 8 Rescheduled Fixture:
1st-Grade: Manly-Warringah Dolphins v Rockdale City Suns, 8.15pm, Thurs 24-May, Cromer Park

DIVISION ONE (1ST, U21, U18): Round 11

Sat 26-May	Popondetta Park	3:00 PM	1:00 PM	11:00 AM	Mt Druitt Town Rangers	v	Belmore Hercules
Sun 27-May	Fred Caterson	3:00 PM	1:00 PM	11:00 AM	Hills United	v	Mt Pritchard
Sun 27-May	Mona Park	3:00 PM	1:00 PM	11:00 AM	Auburn United	v	Greystanes
Sun 27-May	University Oval No1	3:00 PM	1:00 PM	11:00 AM	Sydney University	v	Bathurst '75
Sun 27-May	Magdala Road Park	3:00 PM	1:00 PM	11:00 AM	Ryde City	v	White City
Sun 27-May	Hurstville Oval	3:00 PM	1:00 PM	11.00 AM	Hurstville ZSC	v	Illawarra Lions

DIVISION TWO (1ST, U21, U18): Round 11

Sat 26-May	Birchgrove Oval	3:00 PM	1:00 PM	11:00 AM	Balmain	v	Camden Tigers
Sun 27-May	ES Marks Field	3:00 PM	1:00 PM	11.00 AM	Hakoah	v	The Wanderers
Sun 27-May	Mingara Club	3:00 PM	1:00 PM	11:00 AM	Central Coast Lakers	v	Nepean Association
Sun 27-May	David Phillips Field	3:00 PM	1:00 PM	11.00 AM	University of NSW	v	Western Sydney Lions
Sun 27-May	Pratten Park	3:00 PM	1:00 PM	11:00 AM	Petersham Sydney District	v	Concord FC
Sun 27-May	Eric Primrose Res	3:00 PM	1:00 PM	11.00 AM	Parramatta City	v	Western Rage

DIVISION THREE (1ST, RESERVES): Round 10

Sat 26-May	Jensen Park	3:00 PM	1:00 PM		Auburn Star	v	Prospect United
Sun 27-May	Summerhayes Park	3:00 PM	1:00 PM		Springwood	v	Trasandinos
					(Bye)		Liverpool City
Sun 27-May	Benson's Lane Res	3:00 PM	1:00 PM		Hawkesbury City	v	Kellyville Kolts
Sun 27-May	Knight Park 3	3:00 PM	1:00 PM		Granville Greenisland	v	United Eagles
Sat 26-May	Camdenvill Oval	3:00 PM	1:00 PM		Sydney Crescent Star	v	Colo Colo

DIVISION FOUR (1ST, RESERVES): Round 10

Sat 26-May	Hoxton Park	3.00 pm	1:00 pm		Liverpool Olympic	v	Sporting SCC
					(Bye)	v	Schofields Scorpions
Sun 27-May	Westminster Park	3.00 pm	1:00 pm		Gladesville United	v	UTS
Sun 27-May	Fogolar Field	3.00 pm	1.00 pm		Western Sydney Passion	v	Bossy
Sun 27-May	Knight Park 1	3.00 pm	1.00 pm		Fairfield City	v	Lithgow Workmen
Sat 26-May	Chopin Park	3.00 pm	1.00 pm		Kosciusko	v	Inter Lions

WOMEN'S SUPER LEAGUE (1ST, U21): Round 10

Sun 27-May	Hajduk Stadium	3.00 pm	1:00 pm		Hajduk Wanderers	v	Central Coast Lakers
Sat 26-May	Cromer Park	7.00 pm	3.00 pm		Manly Warringah Dolphins	v	Sutherland Sharks
Sun 27-May	Club Marconi 2	3.00 pm	1.00 pm		Marconi	v	North West Sydney Koalas
Sun 27-May	Cook Park St Marys	3.00 pm	1.00 pm		Nepean Association	v	NSW Academy
Sun 27 May	Jack McLaughlin	3.00 pm	1.00 pm		NNSW Academy	v	Wollongong Wolves

WOMEN'S STATE LEAGUE (1ST, U19): Round 12

Sun 27-May	Pluim Park	3.00 pm	1.00 pm		Coastlee	v	Bathurst City Panthers
					(Bye)	v	UTS
Sun 27-May	Peel Park	3.00 pm	1.00 pm		The Ravens	v	St George Association
Sun 27-May	Garside Park	3.00 pm	1.00 pm		Granville Association	v	Roselandis Raptors
Sun 27-May	Flockhart Park	3.00 pm	1.00 pm		Inter Lions/CSI	v	Petersham Sydney District
Sun 27-May	UWS Campbelltown	3.00 pm	1.00 pm		UWS Wolves Campbelltown	v	Macarthur Rams

GIRL'S YOUTH LEAGUE (U15, U14): Round 10

Fri 25-May	Cromer Park	8.15pm	7.00pm		Manly Warringah	v	Blacktown
					Bye		Marconi
Sun 27-May	Pluim Park	11.15am	10.00am		Central Coast Coasties	v	Macarthur Rams
Sun 27-May	Bates Drive	2.00pm	12.30pm		Sutherland	v	North West Sydney GYL
Fri 25-May	Bensley Road	8.15pm	7.00pm		Campbelltown Macarthur	v	Bye
Sun 27-May	South Nowra	2.00pm	12.30pm		Southern Branch	v	Wollongong Wolves
Sun 27-May	Hajduk Stadium	11.15am	10.00am		Hajduk Wanderers	v	Bankstown

SUPER YOUTH LEAGUE (U13, U14, U15, U17): Round 11

Sat 26-May	Nineveh Field	9:00 AM	10.15 AM	11.45 AM	1.15 PM	Fairfield Bulls	v	Parramatta Eagles
Sat 26-May	Hensley Athletic	10:00 AM	11:30 AM	1:00 PM	2.45 PM	Eastern Suburbs Wanderers	v	Newcastle United
Sat 26-May	Brandon Park	10:00 AM	11:30 AM	1:00 PM	2.45 PM	Wollongong Wolves	v	Leichhardt Tigers
Sat 26-May	St George Stadium	11:30 AM	1:00 PM	2:30 PM	4.15 PM	St George	v	Sutherland Shire
Sat 26-May	Christie Park	11:30 AM	1:00 PM	2:30 PM	4:15 PM	Northern Spirit	v	Sydney United
Sat 26-May	Jensen Park	11:30 AM	1:00 PM	2.30 PM	4:15 PM	Bankstown City Cubs	v	Canterbury Marrickville
Sat 26-May	Gabbie Stadium	11:30 AM	1:00 PM	2:30 PM	4:15 PM	Blacktown City Demons	v	Marconi Stallions
Sat 26-May	Pluim Park	11.30 AM	1:00 PM	2:30 PM	4:15 PM	Central Coast Coasties	v	Manly Warringah Dolphins
Sat 26-May	Kingswood Park	11:30 AM	1:00 PM	2:30 PM	4:15 PM	Penrith Panthers	v	Sydney Olympic
Sat 26-May	Serbian Centre	11:30 AM	1:00 PM	2:30 PM	4:15 PM	Bonnyngg White Eagles	v	Macarthur Rams

SUPER CADET LEAGUE (U11, U12): Round 11

Sat 26-May	St George Stadium	9:00 AM	10:15 AM	St George	v	Sutherland Shire
Sat 26-May	Christie Park	9:00 AM	10:15 AM	Northern Spirit	v	Sydney United
Sat 26-May	Jensen Park	9:00 AM	10:15 AM	Bankstown City Cubs	v	Canterbury Marrickville
Sat 26-May	Gabbie Stadium	9:00 AM	10:15 AM	Blacktown City Demons	v	Marconi Stallions
Sat 26-May	Pluim Park	9:00 AM	10:15 AM	Central Coast Coasties	v	Manly Warringah Dolphins
Sat 26-May	Kingswood Park	9:00 AM	10:15 AM	Penrith Panthers	v	Sydney Olympic
Sat 26-May	Serbian Centre	9.00 AM	10:15 AM	Bonnyngg White Eagles	v	Macarthur Rams
Sun 27-May	Nineveh Field	10:00 AM	11:00 AM	Fairfield Bulls	v	Parramatta Eagles
Sun 27-May	Brandon Park	10:00 AM	11:00 AM	Wollongong Wolves	v	Leichhardt Tigers
				Eastern Suburbs Wanderers		Bye

DIVISION ONE YOUTH (U13, U14, U15, U16): Round 11

Sat 26-May	Abruzzi Oval	10:00 AM	11:30 AM	1:00 PM	2:45 PM	AC United	v	Southern Branch
Sat 26-May	Francis Park	10:00 AM	11:30 AM	1:00 PM	2:45 PM	Blacktown Association	v	Nepean Association
Sat 26-May	Magdala Oval	10:00 AM	11:30 AM	1:00 PM	2:45 PM	Ryde City	v	Mt Pritchard
Sat 26-May	Parklands Oval	10.00 AM	11:30 AM	1:00 PM	2:45 PM	Ku-Ring-Gai Association	v	Illawarra Lions
Sat 26-May	Mingara Club	10:00 AM	11:30 AM	1:00 PM	2:45 PM	Central Coast Lakers	v	Hills United
Sat 26-May	Pratten Park	10:00 AM	11:30 AM	1:00 PM	2:45 PM	Stanmore Hawks	v	Hajduk Wanderers

DIVISION ONE CADETS (U11, U12): Round 11

Sun 27-May	Rockdale Ilinden	8:45 AM	9:45 AM	Rockdale City Suns	v	Camden Tigers
Sun 27-May	Mingara Club	8:45 AM	9:45 AM	Central Coast Lakers	v	Mt Druitt Town Rangers
Sun 27-May	Cook Park Mt Pritch	10:00 AM	11:00 AM	Mt Pritchard	v	Parramatta City
Sun 27-May	Beverley Hills Park	10:00 AM	11:00 AM	Hurstville City Minotaurs	v	Hills United
Sun 27-May	Hammondville Park	10:00 AM	11:00 AM	MSC Liverpool	v	Ryde City
Sun 27-May	Marrickville Oval	10:00 AM	11:00 AM	Stanmore Hawks	v	AC United
Sun 27-May	Bensons Lane	10.00 AM	11:00 AM	Hawkesbury City	v	Illawarra Lions
Sun 27-May	CSI Club	10:00 AM	11.00 AM	Schofields Scorpions	v	Hajduk Wanderers

DIVISION TWO YOUTH (U13, U14, U15, U16): Round 10

Sat 26-May	CSI Club	10:00 AM	11:30 AM	1:00 PM	2:45 PM	Schofield Scorpions	v	Camden Tigers
Sat 26-May	Marrickville Oval	10:00 AM	11:30 AM	1:00 PM	2:45 PM	Dulwich Hill	v	Parramatta City
Sat 26-May	Hurstville Oval	10:00 AM	11:30 AM	1:00 PM	2:45 PM	Hurstville City Minatours	v	Mt Druitt Town
Sat 26-May	Benson's Lane	10:00 AM	11:30 AM	1:00 PM	2:45 PM	Hawkesbury City	v	MSC Liverpool
Sat 26-May	Garside Park	10.00 AM	11:30 AM	1:00 PM	2:45 PM	Granville Association	v	Rockdale City

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SUPER SOCCER'S DIV ONE BIG MATCH REPORT

Ryde and Lions share the points

By Greg Stock

ILLAWARRA LIONS 1
RYDE CITY 1

RYDE City took a well deserved premiership point back from a tough road trip to the south coast when they held a gutsy Illawarra Lions to a 1-1 draw at Macedonia Park.

Despite not having won a match since round three, the Gunners certainly put the bad form behind them, putting in one of their better efforts for the season thus far.

Even Lions coach Marshall Soper drew credit for his opponents conceding that the Gunners were a lot better than their ladder position suggests.

In an entertaining match it was Ryde City who made the most of the first half, which culminated in a late first half goal. Michael O'Reilly, making his debut for the starting side took full toll on a Lions defensive error, three minutes short of the break.

O'Reilly seized on a poor clearance from Jason Kencevski and was able to turn the defender inside out with a deft touch, before rifling a shot past a stranded Ivan Necevski,.

It wasn't until the second half that Illawarra finally got their act together on the forward line.

Introducing himself for the second half, former Socceroo international Marshall Soper injected some life in his sides cause, quickly becoming a focus on the forward line.

With fellow veteran Osvaldo El Ali starting to get more of the ball, it seemed only a matter of time before the inevitable goal would follow.

After pressuring the Ryde defence for a sustained period early in the second half it was Sandro Borsato who finally drew his side level via a brilliant solo effort.

Borsato was released by a rather spectacular Soper overhead kick and raced onto his left foot.

Pushing himself to just outside the penalty box Borsato sent his shot into the top right hand corner of the goal, giving Ryde City goalkeeper Andrew Prentice absolutely no chance.

Despite the match being there for the taking, both sides squandered a number of chances for a winner in the final twenty minutes. Michael O'Reilly and Tim Stratford worked themselves into the ground for the Gunners, while Marshall Soper and Osvaldo El Ali never stopped trying to ignite a final effort from the Lions.

But in the end, the one all draw was probably a fair result considering the effort of both sides.

Lions player/coach Marshall Soper was rather sombre in the rooms after the match but was more than happy with the way his side played.

"We were expected to win this game, and we must win these games if we are to become a contender," he said.

"We played well enough to win, but it was our inability to score which cost us the game. I can't fault our efforts, only our lack of goals."

His coaching opposite Steve Mayer was rather relieved.

"Anything we got from this game was a bonus" said Mayer.

"There aren't too many sides that can travel down to Wollongong and get a point, so I am more than happy with the effort.

"We still have a few injuries and I'm hopeful that the fans will start to see a better Ryde City in the coming weeks "

Illawarra Lions 1 (Borsato 61')
Ryde City 1 (O'Reilly 42')
Ground: Macedonia Park Referee: Boyd McGregor
Illawarra Lions : Ivan Necevski, Robert Mihailov, Negovan Stefoski (Greg Myles 78'), Valentin Tasevski (Shane Hammond 35'), Oliver Vrtkovski, Osvaldo El Ali, Sandro Borsato, Anthony Driene, Kene Cicekdak (Marshall Soper 46'), Jason Kencevski, Paul Aitchison
Ryde City : Adam Frost (Andrew Prentice 33'), Michael O'Reilly, Nathan Hall, Scott Dixon, Oliver Lazarevic (Matthew Brown 54'), Will Mailer (Brett Murray 85'), Craig Dixon, Damien Cunningham, Paul Watkins, Paul Nicolaou, Tim StratfordCautions : Stratford (rc) 42'

NSW First Division Leading scorers:
11: Rob Smithies (Sydney Uni)
9: Daniel Mittiga (Hills United)
7: Tony Alilovic (Hurstville)
6: Danny Poljak (White City), Greg Baldock (Belmore), Mark Williamson (Sydney Uni)
5: Mark Rooke (Bathurst), Osvaldo El Ali (Illawarra Lions), Ray Mandic (White City), Micky Mahamad (Mount Druitt), Michael 'Max' Severino (Mount Pritchard)
4: Patrick Suriano (Mount Pritchard), Jarrod Nash (Ryde City), Tim Stratford (Ryde), Julian Miller (Hills United)
3: Stephen Pirie (Mount Pritchard), Jimmy Corbo (Belmore), Rob.Pirreca (Belmore), Fred Umlil (Sydney University), Costello de Andre Hog (White City), Con Paradisis (Belmore), Robert Babaic (Hurstville ZSC)
2: Oliver Vrckovski (Illawarra Lions), Nick Mandic (Hurstville), Taner Omac (Auburn), Tony Mihaljevic (Hurstville ZSC), Todd Harper (Greystanes), Darren McCann (Illawarra Lions), Sasha Tanevski (Illawarra Lions), Anthony Oppesidano (Hills United), David Marsiglia (Sydney University), Michael Grass (Greystanes), Richard Varga (White City),
Dennis Alilovic (Hurstville ZSC), Adam Obradovic (White City), Brent Griffiths (Bathurst) '75), Ambrose Marncia (Mount Druitt), Sandro Borsato (Illawarra Lions), Glen Lowe (Mount Pritchard) > > 1 Darren Crittenden (Greystanes), Marc Santarossa (Belmore), Rudi Nasser > (Belmore), Bill Tsioumas (Mount Druitt), Luke > McDougall (Sydney University), Peter Vrlic

SUPER SOCCER'S NSWSL BIG MATCH REPORT

AC United unlucky not to take all three points

AC UNITED 1
MACARTHUR RAMS 1

By Robert Scozzafava

ON a frustrating day for the home side, AC United had to be content with a 1-1 draw with Macarthur Rams at Abruzzi Oval.

The match saw AC United dominate the play for large periods of each half, but they were unable to come up with the killer blow and a valiant Rams outfit held on for a point.

The first few minutes of the game saw both sides come out in a positive fashion with some attractive attacking play that resulted in some half chances for both teams.

AC United deservedly took the lead in the 15th minute when the skillful midfielder Huseyin received the ball, beat his man and darted through the Rams defence and sent a pinpoint pass to teammate Picken.

Picken's shot at goal was well saved by Rams keeper Taylor but Huseyin was on hand to slot in the first goal.

AC United could have doubled their lead a minute later when Cevelini had a chance to score but the Rams held on and went on to play a lot better for the remainder of the half.

The Rams persistence paid off in the 39th minute when they equalised through their striker Gunn.

Tireless defender Maude won a 50-50 ball and then struck a magnificent 30 metre shot that bounced off the crossbar, only for Gunn to calmly fire the ball into the net.

The second half started in much the same manner as the first with AC United dominating the play and they really should have wrapped the match up in the first 20 minutes of the half.

Rivera had a chance to score in a goal mouth scramble in the 47th minute and Devrimol and Picken played a brilliant one-two maneuver in the 50th minute, only for Devrimol to see his shot saved by impressive Rams keeper Taylor.

AC United midfielder Rivera was excellent on the left flank as he taunted the Rams defence and sent in crosses all afternoon, but the home team failed to find any good finishing that could beat the Rams goalkeeper.

As the second half wore on, the Rams seemed to become more organised and competitive, especially with their captain Bourke working hard in central midfield.

As the match came to a close, AC United became increasingly frustrated that they could not find the winning goal and managed to give away senseless free kicks, with both Picken and Oliverio getting booked late.

The final whistle blew and both sides ended up sharing the points.

Macarthur seemed to be happy to grab a valuable away point to give them a total of 11 competition points.

While AC United would have felt they should have won this game, especially considering their numerous chances they missed in the second half.

AC United's best players on the afternoon were midfielders Rivera and Vincenzo who were brilliant on their respective flanks, and goal-scorer Huseyin who made several imposing runs through the centre of the Rams defence.

The Rams best players were goalkeeper Taylor who made several important saves and captain Bourke who organised his team well in central midfield.

AC United 1 (Huseyin 15)
Macarthur Rams 1 (Gunn 39)
Ground: Abruzzi Oval
Referee. Craig Pearce
AC United: Fernandez, Grubba, Huseyin, Devrimol, Arajo (Holbrook 79), Picken, Price, Rivera, Vincenzo, Oliverio, Cevelini (Abdul 85)
Subs: Akers, Sacco, Abdul, Toomey, Holbrook.
Cautions: Picken 73, Oliverio 82.
Macarthur Rams: Taylor, Horne, Kirkman, Maude, Bourke, Harrison, Babington, Younan, Andrews, Cevinini (Attard 88), Gunn.
Subs: Wheatley, King, Newall, Attard, Scherini.
Cautions: Younan 36, Horne 48

Lions carry on their good form

By David Lowndes

BANKSTOWN CITY LIONS 4
FRASER PARK 0

BANKSTOWN City Lions consolidated their top four position on the ladder with a 4-0 away victory at Fraser Park.

The home side were coming off a goal spree against MSC Liverpool while the Lions found it hard to find the net against Hurstville City.

The Lions scoring problems of last week were certainly not evident in this match as they ran rampant in the opening half, notching their first goal after six minutes when defender Bryan Raeburn rose above the pack on the far post to head home from close range.

The crowd had only just made themselves comfortable again when two minutes later Jimmy Aschner took possession of a loose ball deep in the Jets half and fired out a well weighted pass to George Issa whose shot beat the keeper and took a deflection off the unlucky Fraser Park skipper Vadim Mikoutski to send the Lions ahead 2-0.

Instead of dropping their heads Fraser Park threw everything they had at Bankstown and came close to pulling a goal back in the 11th minute when industrious midfielder Ivo De Jesus found himself one on one with Lions keeper Zlatko Josevski who saved from point blank range.

Just as their seemed to be a light at the end of the tunnel for Fraser Park they lost experienced striker Abbas Saad midway through a leg injury.

Bankstown delivered the killer blow in the 26th minute when George Issa made another of his trademark dashes down the right hand wing, his cross being met by an unmarked Robert Issa who headed home to an open goal from three metres.

Both teams had early chances in the second half, the best falling to Aschner who upon rounding the keeper fired his shot from a sharp angle into the side netting.

Fraser Park instantly replied with first half substitute Ben Burrows rising to meet a nice cross from Peter Pullicino only to see his header go just wide.

The frantic pace of the first half started to took its toll in the last 30 minutes with reckless challenges and frustration beginning to be a problem for the Jets.

Lions midfielder Chris Bradley came off second best in a challenge from Alban Reinhard which surprisingly went unpunished and Rosenthal and keeper Con Anastasiadis received cautions for dissent.

The Jets frustrations were compounded three minutes from the end when Lions replacement Iain McDonald met a cross from Gus Cerro, guiding his shot around Anastasiadis and into the back of the net giving his side a convincing win.

Fraser Park Jets 0
Bankstown City Lions 4 (Bryan Raeburn 6m, Vadim Mikoutski og 8m, Robert Issa 26m, Iain McDonald 87m)
Ground: Fraser Park Referee: Jonathan Streater
Fraser Park Jets: Con Anastasiadis, Tony Canning (Paul Lombardo 46m), Alban Reinhard (Adam Anderson 66m), Duncan Alger, Ronald Rothenbuhler, Peter Pullicino, Damien Rosenthal, Danial Cummins, Ivo De Jesus, Abbas Saad (Ben Burrows 21m), Vadim Mikoutski, Cautions: Ivo De Jesus 75m, Con Anastasiadis 82m, Damien Rosenthal 84m
Bankstown City Lions: Zlatko Josevski, Sefer Yildiz, Richard Luksic, Bryan Raeburn, Anthony Kanaan, Robert Issa (Gus Cerro 78m), George Issa, Chris Bradley, Robert Gomez (Goce Trposki 85m), Jimmy Aschner (Iain McDonald 80m), Alex Trpkoski,Cautions: Nil

Bulls grab a hard fought victory over Hurstville

By Daniel Kuziow

HURSTVILLE CITY 0
FAIRFIELD BULLS 2

ON a chilly Sunday afternoon, the Fairfield Bulls came away from St George Stadium with a hard fought 2 goals to nil victory over their hosts, the Hurstville City Minotaurs thanks to goals from Adam Mammoliti and Marc Hoenselaars in a game that failed to excite the imagination of those avid soccer fans present at this game

This game is best remembered as one in which 10 minutes of turbulent action at either end of the half, followed by 35 minutes of struggle.

In as early as the 2nd minute, Bulls captain Craig Sharpley hit the base of the upright following a penalty box scramble and five minutes later a cross from Nick Bolianitis almost caught out Frank Mikuletic in the Bulls goals.

On the half hour the Bulls should have opened the scoring when Stewart Van Bentum found Javier Mancino, who after dribbling toward goal fed Matthew Borg, who held it up before slipping the ball to Marc Hoenselaars, whose left foot shot rifled into the side netting.

On 33 minutes the Minotaurs also rued their miss when a free kick fell in the Fairfield Bulls penalty box.

Marcus Pavlakis was first to react, firing at goal from ten yards, his shot was saved by Mikuletic diving to his left, the rebound being fumbled over by the same player for a goal kick.

After 44 minutes however and against the run of play, Adam Mammoliti gave the Fairfield side the lead when his looping shot from the edge of the 18-yard box beat the diving Alogdellis to deflect in off the post.

The Bulls got their second goal nine minutes into the second half, when Hoenselaars converted a penalty awarded after a foul on Mancino.

The score line remained at a two goal difference, thanks to a string of saves from the Hurstville keeper.

On 63 minutes, he showed great courage to cut out a Van Bentum cross, diving at the feet of three attackers and he pulled off an even better save after Hoenselaars had flicked on a corner at the near post.

The last of Alogdellis saves came as he pounced to intercept a Hoenselaars pass, aimed at the feet of three Bulls players lined up in the penalty

Hurstville City peppered their opponents and were unfortunate not to score.

From a series of attacking raids consisting of multiple corners, their best chance fell to Bolianitis who floated in a cross from the left that found the head of Knithakis, whose header missed the goal.

With 89 minutes gone, City substitute Escalante dribbled into the box, who after beating the Fairfield defence tried to slip the ball past Mikuletic and lastly another substitute Ghisso could not control his header after a first time cross from Sharpley had picked him out from a sea of players.

Hurstville 0
Fairfield 2 (Mammoliti 44m, Hoenselaars 54m)
Ground: St George Stadium. Referee: Nick Asargiotis.
Score: Hurstville 0: Fairfield 2.
Hurstville City Minotaurs:Alogdellis, Nicholas, Panagakis, Knithakis, Bolianitis, Petratos, Mitakidis (Escalante 74m), Palapnis, Pavlakis, Manolopoulos, Andreou (Kadouh h/t). Cautions: Palapnis 54m, Panagakis 55m.
Fairfield Bulls:Mikuletic, Crnokrak, Bourke, Richardson, Mammoliti, Hoenselaars, Borg (Ghisso 77m), Sharpley, Mancino (Green 86m), Van Bentum (Darvill 83m), Dee. Cautions: Mikuletic 71m.

SUPER SOCCER'S NSWSL BIG MATCH REPORT

Berry scores a hat-trick as Dolphins destroy Liverpool

By Stuart Veitch

MANLY WARRINGAH 6
MSC LIVERPOOL 0

MANLY Warringah Dolphins proved to be a class above the battling MSC Liverpool, posting a 6-0 win at Cromer Park.

In heavy conditions, with the surface not conducive to pretty football.

MSC Liverpool began brightly when Green, Hewit and Cinek combined well before Dolphins keeper McCreath was forced to smother the ball at Cinek's feet.

However, Manly quickly assumed control, dominating possession and looking stronger all over the park.

It was therefore no surprise to see Berry open the scoring at 13 minutes.

Some good work from Townsend on the right side saw him get to the by-line close to goal and then pull back to Berry to emphatically finish the move.

Liverpool was unable to hang onto possession for anything but a fleeting moment, with poor passing and a lack of options off the ball forcing them into more chasing than playing, just to remain in the contest.

Berry may have scored his second when he rose high at the far post to meet a Moss cross, but could only watch as his header passed by Glen in the MSC goal.

With a measure of luck and a fair amount of endeavour, Liverpool held the Dolphins to the one goal lead until the break.

Just before the hour, Beldham was on the end of a magnificent through ball from Townsend.

Beldham beat his marker, then the keeper, but unfortunately was denied by the post.

The Manly blitz began when a quick thinking Beldham put Townsend through on the right.

Townsend ran into the box, drew a defender and centred for Snyder to score easily on 64 minutes.

Six minutes later Beldham wrote himself onto the scoresheet with a marvellous individual goal.

Beating several defenders in a run down the left side, and then striking home off the far post for a goal.

By now a sense of disarray had permeated the MSC defence.

Berry scored from an easy header and then defender Foster buried another after the MSC keeper fumbled a firmly struck Stubbs-Mills free kick.

It was game, set and match at 6-0 when Berry helped himself to his hat-trick at 79 minutes.

While no-one could accuse the undermanned MSC Liverpool side of giving up, for they battled to the end.

It was a minor miracle they didn't concede another half dozen, with numerous subsequent chances from the Dolphins missing the target.

Manly coach Gary van Egmond was pleased to get the points.

"The wet conditions are a leveller, but throughout the first half we created chances," he said.

Van Egmond was particularly pleased with Kelvin Foster and Hong "Tony" Ju.

Manly Warringah 6 (Berry 13', 72', 79', Snyder 64', Beldham 70', Foster 75')
MSC Liverpool 0
Ground: Cromer Park Referee: Brad McKay.
Manly Warringah: McCreath, Ju, Moss, Foster, Townsend, Stubbs-Mills, Beldham, Snyder (Antar 78'), Farria, Sobczyk (Israel 72'), Berry (Wilson 85'). Cautioned: Sobczyk 60'.
MSC Liverpool: Glen, Ortiz (Z Momircevski 66'), Arrarte, Zullo, Wells, Corrente (Wurth 70'), Amendolia (O Momircevski 80'), Green, Cinek, Watkins, Hewit. Cautioned: Watkins 67'.

STEVE BERRY: hat-trick hero

Dulwich Hill stay top by winning local derby

By Robert Szoszkiewicz

STANMORE HAWKS 0
DULWICH HILL 1

DULWICH Hill maintained top spot on the competition table after recording a grueling 1-0 victory in the local derby against the Stanmore Hawks.

Despite both clubs sharing Arlington Oval, this fixture was officially a Stanmore home game.

The Hawks were no doubt keen to get back on home turf after their last start drubbing at the hands of the Fairfield Bulls, while the competition pacesetters looked towards consolidating their good start to the season.

The opening exchanges were met with much vigour and it was evident that the rivalry between the two clubs would provide for an entertaining spectacle for football fans.

After only three minutes of play, Dulwich Hill made their intentions felt when Eric Hristodoulou put Peter Apolevski through the back line only to have an advancing Peter Spathis break down the move.

Spathis was in the thick of things again not long after, this time blocking a Steve Karavatakis shot on goal following some good work on the left flank by Ben Deighan and Apolevski.

Apolevski, Karavatakis and Navid Varess were explosive in attack, and kept the Stanmore defenders back peddling for the majority of the half.

Frustratingly for Dulwich Hill supporters, they weren't able to convert any of these raids on goal.

With the few opportunities the Hawks had to pressure their opponents goal area, lack of strike power when it mattered most took the gloss off some enterprising plays.

Moments before the half time whistle sounded, Dulwich Hill had further chances to hit the front, but were yet again denied, firstly by Spathis, then the woodwork.

Although dominating most of the opening term, Dulwich Hill had to be content with a 0-0 score-line at the interval.

The 'visitors' began the second period where they left of the first.

In the 52nd minute, they looked to have finally found the back of the net.

Karavatakis crossed for Varess in the centre who had the keeper beaten with his shot only to have the ball miraculously cleared off the goal line by Adrian Lara.

But in the 55th minute, the fortunes ran out for the Hawks.

A free kick just outside the penalty box to Hristodoulou, after Karavatakis was held back whilst on the attack, ricocheted off the wall and wrong footed the hapless keeper to give the Hill a one-nil lead.

Dulwich Hill should have extended their advantage but for further heroics of Spathis.

He defused a one-on-one situation with substitute Ali Salim and later saved a Karavatakis penalty after Salim was brought down in the box.

The 1-0 result ensuring Dulwich Hill the three competition points and the competition lead after ten rounds.

Victorious assistant coach Nick Naumovski said he didn't expect things to be easy out in the middle.

"It was exactly like the local derby we expected, a tough game," he said.

"We had a lot of opportunities to score, they just didn't go in."

His adversary George Lazarou was reasonably pleased with the effort by his chargers and remained optimistic about his teams prospects.

"The boys tried hard. It was a big turn around from last week," says Lazarou.

"It's the first time in three weeks that we have actually trained for the whole of the week.

"It will come to us."

Stanmore Hawks 0 Dulwich Hill 1 (Hristodoulou 55)
Ground: Arlington Oval
Referee: Matthew Breeze
Stanmore Hawks: Spathis, Borg, Theodoropoulos, Anaw, Maximiliano (Antonopoulos 71), T. Lara, A. Lara, Briscoe, Soler (Campbell 69), Liavas, Papadopoulos (Vezos 82); Substitutes: Tulloch, Campbell, Skufris, Antonopoulos, Vezos Cautions: T. Lara 45, Antonopoulos 76
Dulwich Hill: Trajcevski, Kalogeras, Dihm, Kotevich, Apolevski (Markopoulos 84), Deighan, Hristodoulou. Karavatakis, Bideau, Wong, Varess (Salim 66); Substitutes: Farias, Markopoulos, Papoythis, Salim, Mendes Cautions: Kalogeras 22, Salim 83

SCOREBOARD

World Cup Qualifiers
Asian zone
May 20
group one
Laos 2 Philippines 0
HT: 1-0

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Syria	5	4	1	0	40	4	13
Oman	5	4	1	0	31	3	13
Laos	5	1	0	4	2	39	3
Philippines	5	0	0	5	1	28	0

Remaining matches:
May 25 - Oman v Syria
May 26 - Philippines v Laos

May 15
group five
Thailand 3 Pakistan 0
Lebanon 4 Sri Lanka 0

May 17
group five
Lebanon 1 Thailand 2
Scorers: Lebanon - Surachai Jirasirachote
Sog Thailand - Sakesan Pituaratana 15, Kiatisuk Senamuang 27
Halftime: 1-2

Sri Lanka 3 Pakistan 3
Scorers: Sri Lanka - Imthyas Raheem 45, Ediri Channa 72, Weerarathne Kassun 83
Pakistan - Ghohar Zaman 75, 80, 85
HT: 1-0

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Thailand	3	3	0	0	9	3	9
Lebanon	3	2	0	1	11	2	6
Sri Lanka	3	0	1	2	5	11	1
Pakistan	3	0	1	2	3	12	1

Next fixtures:
May 26 Lebanon v Pakistan
Thailand v Sri Lanka

May 20
group nine
China 3 Cambodia 1
Scorers:
China - Ma Mingyu 5, Xu Yunlong 22, Li Bin 87
Cambodia - Chea Makara 12
H/T: 2-1

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
China	6	5	0	0	23	3	15
Indonesia	5	4	0	1	16	5	12
Maldives	6	1	1	4	8	19	4
Cambodia	6	0	1	5	2	21	1

Remaining matches:
May 27 - Indonesia v China

African zone
group D
May 20
Ivory Coast 1 Tunisia 1
group D
Scorers:
Ivory Coast - Ibrahima Bakayoko 33
Tunisia - Ziad Jaziri 50
Halftime:1-0; Attendance:45,000

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Tunisia	5	4	2	0	14	4	14
Ivory Coast	5	3	2	0	10	5	11
Congo DR	6	2	1	3	5	12	7
Congo	5	1	1	3	4	7	4
Madagascar	6	1	0	5	4	9	3

Next fixtures:
June 30 Tunisia v Congo Tunis
July 1 Ivory Coast v Madagascar Abidjan

ENGLAND
May 15
Premier League
Newcastle United 0 Arsenal 0

May 17
Division one play-off
Bolton 3 West Bromwich 0
(Bolton win 5-2 on aggregate)
Preston 2 Birmingham 1
(2-2 on aggregate after extra-time, Preston win 4-2 on penalties)
Final: Bolton v Preston to be played on Monday, May 28

Division two
Reading 2 Wigan 1
(Reading win 2-1 on aggregate)
Walsall 4 Stoke 2
(Walsall win 4-2 on aggregate)
Final: Reading v Walsall to be played on Sunday, May 27

Division three
Hartlepool 1 Blackpool 3
(Blackpool win 5-1 on aggregate)
Leyton Orient 2 Hull 0
(Leyton Orient win 2-1 on aggregate)
Final: Blackpool v Leyton Orient to be played on Saturday, May 26

May 19
Premier League
Charlton Athletic 0 Liverpool 4
Coventry City 0 Bradford City 0
Derby County 1 Ipswich Town 1
Everton 2 Sunderland 2
Leeds United 3 Leicester City 1
Manchester City 1 Chelsea 2
Middlesbrough 2 West Ham United 1
Newcastle United 3 Aston Villa 0
Southampton 3 Arsenal 2
Tottenham Hotspur 3 Manchester United 1

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Manchester United	38	24	8	6	79	31	80
Arsenal	38	20	10	8	63	38	70
Liverpool	38	20	9	9	71	39	69
Leeds United	38	20	8	10	64	43	68
Ipswich Town	38	20	6	12	57	42	66
Chelsea	38	17	10	11	68	45	61
Sunderland	38	15	12	11	46	41	57
Aston Villa	38	13	15	10	46	43	54
Charlton Athletic	38	14	10	14	50	57	52
Southampton	38	14	10	14	40	48	52
Newcastle United	38	14	9	15	44	50	51
Tottenham Hotspur	38	13	10	15	47	54	49
Leicester City	38	14	6	18	39	51	48
Middlesbrough	38	9	15	14	44	44	42
West Ham United	38	10	12	16	45	50	42
Everton	38	11	9	18	45	59	42
Derby County	38	10	12	16	37	59	42
Manchester City	38	8	10	20	41	65	34
Coventry City	38	8	10	20	36	63	34
Bradford City	38	5	11	22	30	70	26

Leading scorers:
23 - Jimmy Floyd Hasselbaink (Chelsea)
19 - Marcus Stewart (Ipswich Town)
17 - Thierry Henry (Arsenal)
Mark Viduka (Leeds United)
16 - Michael Owen (Liverpool)

FRANCE
May 19
French first division
Monaco 1 Lille 2
RC Lens 1 Nantes 4
Stade Rennes 3 Olympique Lyon 4
Metz 2 Girondins Bordeaux 0
Sedan 1 AJ Auxerre 0
Troyes 1 Olympique Marseille 1
St Etienne 2 En Avant Guingamp 2
Bastia 5 Toulouse 1
Strasbourg 1 Paris St Germain 2

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Nantes	34	21	5	8	57	36	68
Olympique Lyon	34	17	13	4	57	30	64
Lille	34	16	11	7	43	27	59
Girond.Bordeaux	34	15	12	7	48	33	57
Sedan	34	14	10	10	47	40	52
Stade Rennes	34	14	6	14	46	39	48
Troyes	34	11	13	10	45	47	46
Bastia	34	13	6	15	45	41	45
Paris St Germain	34	12	8	14	44	43	44
En Av Guingamp	34	11	11	12	40	48	44
Monaco	34	12	7	15	53	50	43
Metz	34	11	10	13	37	44	43
AJ Auxerre	34	11	8	15	31	41	41
RC Lens	34	9	13	12	37	39	40
Oly Marseille	34	11	7	16	31	40	40
St Etienne	34	9	10	15	43	56	37
Toulouse	34	8	10	16	34	50	34
Strasbourg	34	7	8	19	28	61	29

GERMANY
May 19
Bundesliga
Hamburg SV 1 Bayern Munich 1
Werder Bremen 3 Hansa Rostock 0
Borussia Dortmund 3 Cologne 3
Schalke 04 5 SpVgg Unterhaching 3
Eintracht Frankfurt 2 VfB Stuttgart 1
SC Freiburg 4 VfL Wolfsburg 1
Bayer Leverkusen 1 VfL Bochum 0
Kaiserslautern 0 Hertha Berlin 1
TSV 1860 Munich 0 Energie Cottbus 1

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Bayern Munich	34	19	6	9	62	37	63
Schalke 04	34	18	8	8	65	35	62
Borussia Dortmund	34	16	10	8	62	42	58
Bayer Leverkusen	34	17	6	11	54	40	57
Hertha Berlin	34	15	2	14	58	52	56
SC Freiburg	34	15	10	9	54	37	55
Werder Bremen	34	15	8	11	53	48	53
Kaiserslautern	34	15	5	14	49	54	50
VfL Wolfsburg	34	12	11	11	60	45	47
Cologne	34	12	10	12	59	52	46
TSV 1860 Munich	34	12	8	14	43	55	44
Hansa Rostock	34	12	7	15	34	47	43
Hamburg SV	34	10	11	13	58	58	41
Energie Cottbus	34	12	3	19	38	52	39
VfB Stuttgart	34	9	11	14	42	49	38
SpVgg Unterhach	34	8	11	15	35	59	35
Eintracht Frankfurt	34	10	5	19	41	68	35
VfL Bochum	34	7	6	21	30	67	27

HOLLAND
May 17
Dutch first division
Ajax Amsterdam 1 Vitesse Arnhem 2

IRELAND
May 18
League of Ireland second leg play-off match
University College Dublin 2 Athlone 1
(aggregate 3-3)

JAPAN
May 20
J.League
Jubilo Iwata 2 Consadole Sapporo 1
Sanfrecce Hiroshima 3 Tokyo Verdy 2
JF United Ichihara 4 Vissel Kobe 1
Cerezo Osaka 0 Yokohama Marinos 2
Urawa Reds 1 Gamba Osaka 2
Avispa Fukuoka 2 FC Tokyo 1
Kashima Antlers 3 Kashiwa Reysol 2

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Iwata	10	9	0	1	23	7	26
Shimizu	9	7	0	2	17	10	18
Ichihara	10	6	0	4	21	16	17
Nagoya	9	6	1	2	14	11	16
Sapporo	10	5	1	4	13	13	16
Fukuoka	10	5	0	5	12	14	14
Kashiwa	10	5	0	5	19	16	13
Hiroshima	10	5	0	5	19	18	13
Osaka Gamba	10	5	0	5	13	15	13
Urawa	10	4	1	5	14	16	12
Kobe	10	4	1	5	10	14	12
FC Tokyo	10	4	0	6	10	15	11
Yokohama	10	3	1	6	10	14	10
Kashima	10	3	1	6	14	18	9
Cerezo Osaka	10	2	2	6	14	18	8
Tokyo Verdy	10	2	0	8	12	20	5

Note: Three points are awarded for a win in 90 minutes, two points for a win in extra time and one point for a draw after extra time.

ITALY
May 17
Serie A
AC Milan 1 Fiorentina 2
Parma 3 Inter Milan 1

May 20
Atalanta 1 Reggina 1
Bari 1 AS Roma 4
Bologna 1 Juventus 4
Lazio 3 Udinese 1
Napoli 2 Verona 0
Perugia 2 Brescia 2
Vicenza 0 Lecce 0

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
AS Roma	31	21	7	3	62	29	70
Lazio	31	20	5	6	60	33	65
Juventus	31	18	10	3	55	26	64
Parma	31	15	8	8	47	21	53
AC Milan	31	12	11	8	53	42	47
Inter Milan	31	12	8	11	42	44	44
Atalanta Bergamo	31	10	13	8	36	30	43
Fiorentina	31	10	12	9	51	46	42
Bologna	31	11	9	11	42	44	42
Perugia	31	10	11	10	47	49	41
Brescia	31	8	13	10	38	38	37
Udinese	31	10	4	17	46	56	34
Vicenza	31	8	9	14	33	44	33
Lecce	31	7	12	12	35	49	33
Napoli	31	7	10	14	31	48	31
Reggina	31	8	6	17	28	47	30
Verona	31	7	7	17	31	53	28
Bari	31	5	5	21	29	62	20

Leading scorers:
24 - Andriy Shevchenko (AC Milan)
23 - Hernan Crespo (Lazio)
22 - Enrico Chiesa (Fiorentina)
18 - Gabriel Batistuta (AS Roma)
17 - Christian Vieri (Inter Milan)
15 - Dario Hubner (Brescia)

NEW ZEALAND
NATIONAL LEAGUE
Central United 2
Brian Hawke 2; Miro Major 7
Christchurch City 2
Brent Fisher 20; Adam Lett 24

Dunedin Technical 8
Jon Smith 9, 58; B Scoullar 71, 84, P Kelly 27 M McGregor 77, T Tennyson 34; A Burgess 42
Napier City-Rovers 1
Martin Akers 59

Manawatu AFC 2
I Robinson 16;I Duker 87
Tauranga City-United 1
Dion Bartosh 48

Miramar Rangers 5
Tariq Inman 42, 84, 90; G Little 47, M Woodside 78
Metro AFC 0

University-Mt Wellington 2
Terry Thou 55; Leigh Kenyon 62
Waitakere City 1
Thomas Edge 78

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Central United	9	6	3	0	27	9	21
Uni-Mt Wellington	9	6	1	2	16	10	19
Miramar Rangers	8	5	2	1	20	9	17
Manawatu	8	4	1	3	14	11	13
Napier City-Rovers	8	4	1	3	17	15	13
Waitakere City	9	3	1	5	18	19	10
Dunedin Technical	8	3	0	5	20	23	9
Tauranga City	9	2	2	5	16	19	8
Christchurch City	8	2	2	4	8	13	6
Metro	8	0	1	7	6	28	1

Leading scorers:
9 - Thomas Edge [Waitakere City]
7 - Campbell Banks [Central United] Aaron Burgess [Dunedin Technical] Graham Little [Miramar Rangers]

PORTUGAL
May 16
Portuguese Supercup replay
Sporting Lisbon 1 Porto 0
Scorer: Alberto Acosta 44pen
Red card: Beto Severo (Sporting) 73, Jorge Costa (Porto) 75
Halftime: 1-0; Attendance: 10,000

May 20
Portuguese premier league
Farense 1 Braga 0
Pacos Ferreira 2 Alverca 2
Belenenses 1 Gil Vicente 3
Benfica 1 Salgueiros 1
Uniao Leiria 1 Beira Mar 0
Campomaiorense 1 Sporting 0
Maritimo 1 Vitoria Guimaraes 0
Boavista 3 Aves 0

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Boavista	33	23	8	2	63	18	77
Porto	32	22	4	6	66	25	70
Sporting	33	18	5	10	55	37	59
Braga	33	16	9	8	55	43	57
Benfica	33	15	8	10	50	40	53
Uniao Leiria	33	14	11	8	41	38	53
Belenenses	33	14	10	9	43	34	52
Beira Mar	33	14	6	13	42	46	48
Pacos Ferreira	33	12	12	9	46	36	48
Maritimo	33	12	7	14	34	36	43
Salgueiros	33	12	4	17	39	55	40
Alverca	33	11	7	15	43	51	40
Farense	33	10	9	14	37	46	39
Gil Vicente	33	9	7	17	31	40	34
Vitoria Guimaraes	33	8	9	16	40	49	33
Campomaiorense	33	7	11	15	28	56	32
Aves	33	4	9	20	27	64	21
Estrela Amadora	32	4	6	22	25	51	18

SPAIN
May 20
Spanish La Liga
Celta Vigo 1 Numancia 1
Espanyol 0 Real Mallorca 1
Osasuna 3 Las Palmas 3
Real Oviedo 2 Deportivo Coruna 3
Real Sociedad 4 Malaga 0
Real Zaragoza 0 Villarreal 0
Valladolid 1 Racing Santander 1
Alaves 0 Barcelona 1
Valencia 1 Athletic Bilbao 0
Real Madrid 1Rayo Vallecano 0

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Real Madrid	35	22	7	6	73	38	73
Deportivo Coruna	35	20	7	8	67	42	67
Valencia	35	18	8	9	52	29	62
Real Mallorca	35	17	11	7	49	39	62
Barcelona	35	16	11	8	75	52	59
Celta Vigo	35	14	10	11	48	48	52
Villarreal	35	14	9	12	52	51	51
Malaga	35	14	8	13	55	55	50
Alaves	35	14	7	14	55	48	49
Espanyol	35	13	8	14	42	36	47
Las Palmas	35	12	7	16	39	58	43
Athletic Bilbao	35	11	10	14	42	51	43
Real Zaragoza	35	9	13	13	52	54	40
Rayo Vallecano	35	9	13	13	54	62	40
Real Sociedad	35	10	9	16	48	65	39
Valladolid	35	8	14	13	37	45	38
Real Oviedo	35	10	7	18	47	62	37
Osasuna	35	8	12	15	41	52	36
Racing Santander	35	9	8	18	43	59	35
Numancia	35	8	9	18	35	60	33

TURKEY
May 20
Turkish first division
Besiktas 5 Siirt Jetpaspor 1
Antalyaspor 2 Istanbulspor 2
Yozgatspor 1 Genclerbirligi 1
Adanaspor 3 Samsunspor 5
Ankaragucu 5 Erzurumspor 2
Rizespor 2 Kocaelispor 1

AUSTRALIA
National Soccer League
Major Semi Final
South Melbourne 1 (V Coveny 67')
Wollongong Wolves 2 (M Horsley 50', S Petrovski 69')
Wollongong Wolves win 4-2 on aggregate and advance to the Grand Final

Minor Semi Final
Sydney Olympic 1 (A Juric)
Melbourne Knights 0
Sydney Olympic advance to play South Melbourne in Preliminary Final

NSW SOCCER FEDERATION
SUPER LEAGUE
FIRST GRADE:
Fraser Park Jets 0 Bankstown City Lions 4 (B Raeburn 6m Own goal 10m R Issa 26m I Macdonald 89m)

Hurstville City Minotaurs 0 Fairfield Bulls 2 (A Mammoliti 44m M Hoenselaars 54m Penalty)

Stanmore Hawks 0 Dulwich Hill 1 (E Hristodoulou 55m)

Hajduk Wanderers 3 (T Worrall 28/40/56m Penalty) Rockdale City Suns 2 (P Cklamovski 63m S Ralevski 86m)

AC United 1 (D Huseyin 15m) Macarthur Rams 1 (L Gunn 38m)

Manly Warringah Dolphins 6 (S Berry 13/72/80m A Snyder 64m M Beldham 70m K Foster 76m) MSC Liverpool 0.

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Dulwich Hill	9	6	2	1	20	13	20
Manly Warringah	9	5	2	2	21	13	17
Bankstown City	9	5	2	2	15	7	17
Fairfield Bulls	9	4	3	2	30	15	15
Rockdale City Suns	9	4	2	3	20	14	14
H'ville City	9	4	2	3	10	11	14
Macarthur Rams	10	3	3	4	15	14	12
Fraser Park	9	3	2	4	20	20	11
AC United	9	2	2	5	9	15	8
Hajduk Wanderers	9	2	2	5	11	18	8
Stanmore Hawks	8	2	2	4	7	15	8
MSC Liverpool	9	1	2	6	13	36	5

GRADE 21:
May 16
Fairfield Bulls 4 Macarthur Rams 1
MSC Liverpool 1 Stanmore Hawks 0
May 20
Fraser Park Jets 0 Bankstown City Lions 0
Hurstville City Minotaurs 1 Fairfield Bulls 2
Stanmore Hawks 0 Dulwich Hill 1
Hajduk Wanderers 4 Rockdale City Suns 3
AC United 3 Macarthur Rams 3
Manly Warringah 2 MSC Liverpool 1

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Macarthur Rams	10	6	3	1	23	16	21
Fairfield Bulls	9	6	2	1	16	9	20
Manly Warringah	9	4	3	2	16	11	15
Fraser Park	9	4	3	2	13	9	15
AC United	9	3	4	2	16	13	13
Hajduk Wanderers	9	4	1	4	15	16	13
Bankstown City	9	3	3	3	14	11	12
H'ville City	9	4	0	5	12	16	12
Dulwich Hill	9	3	2	4	15	19	11
Rockdale City	9	2	2	5	24	25	8
MSC Liverpool	10	2	1	7	10	20	7
Stanmore Hawks	9	1	2	6	8	17	5

GRADE 18:
May 16
Fairfield Bulls 2 Macarthur Rams 1
MSC Liverpool 0 Stanmore Hawks 0
May 20
Fraser Park Jets 1 Bankstown City Lions 3
Hurstville City Minotaurs 1 Fairfield Bulls 0
Stanmore Hawks 1 Dulwich Hill 0
Hajduk Wanderers 3 Rockdale City Suns 1
AC United 2 Macarthur Rams 2
Manly Warringah 2 MSC Liverpool 1.

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Manly Warringah	9	8	0	1	24	4	24
Macarthur Rams	10	5	4	1	17	10	19
Fairfield Bulls	9	5	1	3	13	12	16
Bankstown City	9	5	0	4	25	13	15
AC United	9	4	3	2	20	12	15
MSC Liverpool	10	4	3	3	23	17	15
Stanmore Hawks	9	3	4	2	7	8	13
Dulwich Hill	9	2	4	3	12	13	10
Fraser Park	9	2	3	4	14	23	9
Hajduk Wanderers	9	2	2	5	11	19	8
H'ville City	9	1	1	7	7	24	4
Rockdale City	9	1	1	7	13	31	4

DIVISION ONE
FIRST GRADE:
Hurstville ZSC 2 (A Alilovic 15m R Babaic 85m) Sydney University 4 (R Smithies 5/50/75m M Williamson 21m)

White City 2 (A Obradovic 5m P Krljar 47m)
Sydney University 3 (R Smithies 28m M Williamson 46m P Croci 73m)

Bathurst '75 1 (B Griffiths 40m)
Belmore Hercules 0

Greystanes 0
Hills United 3 (J Miller 7m D Mittiga 30/40m)

Auburn United 0
Mt Druitt Town Rangers 6 (A Mancia 23m L Cross 38/82m M Mohamad 47/55/74m)

Illawarra Lions 1 (S Vorsalo 61m) Ryde City 1 (M O'Riley 42m) Mt Pritchard 2 (M Severino 9m G Lowe 12m) Hurstville ZSC 0

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Sydney University	10	6	2	2	25	17	20
Mt Pritchard	8	5	3	0	20	5	18
Belmore Hercules	9	5	3	1	19	14	18
Hurstville ZSC	9	5	2	2	19	11	17
Illawarra Lions	8	4	3	1	14	9	15
Hills United	8	4	2	2	18	10	14
Bathurst '75	9	4	1	4	13	9	13
Ryde City	8	3	1	4	16	14	10
White City	9	2	3	4	26	20	9
Mt Druitt Town	8	1	2	5	10	16	5
Greystanes	9	1	2	6	10	27	5
Auburn United	9	0	0	9	7	45	0

GRADE 21:
Hurstville ZSC 2 Sydney University 2
White City 0 Sydney University 1
Bathurst '75 2 Belmore Hercules 2
Greystanes 0 Hills United 2
Auburn United 1 Mt Druitt Town Rangers 4
Illawarra Lions 0 Ryde City 6
Mt Pritchard 1 Hurstville ZSC 0

GRADE 18:
Hurstville ZSC 0 Sydney University 1
White City 2 Sydney University 0
Bathurst '75 5 Belmore Hercules 1
Greystanes 2 Hills United 1
Auburn United 0 Mt Druitt Town Rangers 5
Illawarra Lions 2 Ryde City 1
Mt Pritchard 1 Hurstville ZSC 0

DIVISION TWO
FIRST GRADE:
Concord FC 1 (A D'Amico 70m) Hakoah 4 (R Neumann 20m G Chester 22m T Sperber 57m R Taylor 88m)

Parramatta City 2 (C Barry 9m J Tyler 43m) The Wanderers 2 (G Orcajo 70m O Makki 72m)

Nepean Association 1 (G McPherson 11m)

SCOREBOARD

Hakoah 3 (D Karpes 35m T Sperber 40m G Martin 85m)

Concord FC 1 (R Petaccia 59m) University of NSW 2 (M Ottary 50m N Kodomichalos 82m)

Western Sydney Lions 2 (D Georges 53m W Spiteri 71m) Central Coast Lakers 0

Camden Tigers 1 (S Beever 74m)
Petersham Sydney District 3 (K Lammert 5/69m A Smith 88m)

Western Rage 2 (Own goal 59m L Druland 89m) Balmain 1 (M Jaffray 44m).

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Western Rage	9	6	2	1	19	9	20
Parramatta City	9	5	4	0	15	8	19
Western Sydney	9	4	3	2	15	11	15
UNSW	10	3	6	1	15	13	15
Wanderers	9	3	5	1	17	13	14
Balmain	9	4	2	3	16	12	14
Nepean District	8	4	1	3	20	15	13
Hakoah	10	3	2	5	20	21	11
P'sham Sydney	9	3	1	5	11	16	10
Central Coast	9	1	4	4	14	17	7
Camden Tigers	10	1	3	6	15	27	6
Concord FC	9	1	1	7	9	24	4

GRADE 21:
Parramatta City 1 The Wanderers 6
Nepean Association 3 Hakoah 2
Concord FC 1 University of NSW 4
Western Sydney Lions 4 Central Coast 3
Camden Tigers 1 P'sham Sydney District 1
Western Rage 2 Balmain 1

GRADE 18:
Parramatta City 5 The Wanderers 1
Nepean Association 5 Hakoah 0
Concord FC 1 University of NSW 1
Western Sydney Central Coast (Abandoned)
Camden Tigers 12 P'sham Sydney District 0,
Western Rage 1 Balmain 0

DIVISION THREE
FIRST GRADE:
May 20
Prospect United 1 Springwood 4
United Eagles 0 Sydney Crescent Star 2
Liverpool City 1 Hawkesbury City 3
Kellyville Kolts 0 Granville Greenisland 0
Colo Colo 2 Auburn Star 5

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Sydney Crescent	8	7	1	0	35	9	22
Auburn Star	8	6	1	1	23	12	19
Springwood	8	4	2	2	20	13	14
Kellyville	8	3	4	1	18	8	13
Trasandinos	7	3	3	1	25	14	12
Colo Colo	8	3	2	3	19	20	11
United Eagles	7	2	2	3	13	16	8
H'bury City SC	7	2	2	3	11	14	8
Granville G'land	7	1	2	4	7	16	5
Prospect United	7	1	1	5	9	25	4
Liverpool City	9	0	0	9	5	38	0

RESERVE GRADE:
Springwood 1 Hawkesbury City 0
Prospect United 0 Sydney Crescent Star 2
Prospect United 0 Springwood 4
United Eagles 5 Sydney Crescent Star 0
Liverpool City 1 Hawkesbury City 0
Kellyville Kolts 7 Granville Greenisland 2
Colo Colo 1 Auburn Star 0

DIVISION FOUR
FIRST GRADE:
Schofield Scorpions 1 Gladesville United 1
Inter Lions 4 Liverpool Olympic 2
Schofield Scorpions 1 Gladesville United 1
UTS 9 Western Sydney Passion 0
Bossy 5 Fairfield City 2
Lithgow Workmen 1 Kosciusko 1

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
UTS	7	7	0	0	28	3	21
Inter Lions	8	5	2	1	22	10	17
Bossy	7	4	3	0	23	12	15
CSI Schofields	8	3	2	3	15	19	11
Liverpool Olympic	6	3	0	3	15	16	9
Gladesville United	7	2	3	2	11	13	9
Kosciuszko	6	2	1	3	15	12	7
Sporting SCC	6	2	1	3	10	17	7
Lithgow Workmen	7	1	2	4	12	20	5
Fairfield City	7	1	1	5	7	15	4
West Syd' Passion	7	0	1	6	6	27	1

RESERVE GRADE:
Schofields Scorpions 2 Gladesville United 0
Inter Lions 3 Liverpool Olympic 1
UTS 8 Western Sydney Passion 1
Bossy 6 Fairfield City 2
Lithgow Workmen 3 Kosciusko 0

WOMENS SUPER LEAGUE
FIRST GRADE:
Sutherland Sharks 4 NSW Academy 1
Central Coast 1 Wollongong Wolves 4
Sutherland Sharks 9 Hajduk Wanderers 0
North West Sydney 1 Manly Warringah 3
Marconi 1 NSW Academy 3
Nepean Association 3 NNSW Academy 1.

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Nepean Assoc	8	7	0	1	36	8	21
Sutherland	8	6	1	1	39	7	19
NSW Academy	8	6	1	1	27	9	19
Northern NSW	8	5	2	1	31	12	17
Marconi	8	4	1	3	24	10	13
Manly Warringah	8	3	1	4	17	25	10
Wollongong Wolves	8	2	0	6	12	18	6
Central Coast	8	1	2	5	11	31	5
North West Sydney	8	1	0	7	5	28	3
Hajduk Wanderers	8	1	0	7	4	58	3

GRADE 21:
Central Coast 0 Wollongong Wolves 0
Sutherland Sharks 6 Hajduk Wanderers 0
North West Sydney 3 Manly Warringah 2
Marconi 3 NSW Academy 0
Nepean Association 0 NNSW Academy 8
Sutherland Sharks 1 NSW Academy 4

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Marconi	9	7	1	1	35	5	22
North NSW Acad	8	7	0	1	30	8	21
NSW Academy	8	6	0	2	27	14	18
Sutherland	8	5	0	3	26	12	15
Wollongong Wolves	8	3	2	3	13	10	11
Nepean Assoc	9	2	3	4	13	20	9
Manly Warringah	8	2	2	4	19	20	8
Central Coast	8	1	3	4	11	27	6
North West Sydney	8	1	2	5	8	25	5
Hajduk Wanderers	8	0	1	7	1	42	1

WOMENS STATE LEAGUE
First Grade:
Granville Association 5 Inter Lions/CSI 0
Bathurst City Panthers 3 UWS Wolves 0
Coasties v UTS Washed Out
The Ravens 5 Rosleands Raptors 0
Granville Assoc 0 P'sham Sydney District 2
Inter Lions/CSI 2 Macarthur Rams 8

GRADE 19:
Granville Association 6 Inter Lions/CSI 0
Bathurst City Panthers 2 UWS Wolves 1
Coasties v UTS Washed Out
The Ravens 2 Rosleands Raptors 2
Granville Assoc 3 P'sham Sydney District 2
Inter Lions/CSI 1 Macarthur Rams 3

GIRLS YOUTH LEAGUE
GRADE 16:
Bankstown City 0 Sutherland Association 4
Marconi 3 Ku-Ring-Gai Association 0

GRADE 14:
Bankstown City 0 Sutherland Association 2

SUPER YOUTH LEAGUE
GRADE 13:
Sydney United 0 Wollongong Wolves 1
Newcastle United v Fairfield Washed Out
Sydney United 2 Bankstown City Cubs 0
Manly Warringah v Penrith Washed Out
Marconi Stallions 3 Eastern Suburbs 1
Canterbury Marrickville 1 Blacktown City 0
Sutherland Shire 2 Northern Spirit 5
Sydney Olympic 2 Macarthur Rams 0
Leichhardt Tigers 0 Central Coast Coasties 0
Parramatta Eagles 1 Wollongong Wolves 0
St George 3 Bonnyrigg White Eagles 1

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Sydney Olympic	9	9	0	0	28	4	27
Northern Spirit	9	8	0	1	43	6	24
Blacktown City	9	8	0	1	38	3	24
Leichhardt	10	5	4	1	17	6	19
C'bury Marrickville	10	6	0	4	16	9	18
Marconi	10	5	3	2	19	14	18
Central Coast	10	5	2	3	10	12	17
Manly Warringah	9	4	3	2	14	9	15
Wollongong Wolves	9	5	0	4	12	12	15
Sydney United	10	4	2	4	13	13	14
Sutherland	10	4	1	5	16	12	13
Macarthur	10	4	1	5	13	12	13
Penrith	9	3	2	4	10	16	11
Bankstown City	10	3	1	6	16	16	10
Parramatta Eagles	9	3	0	6	7	14	9
St George	10	2	2	6	9	24	8
Fairfield Bulls	9	1	2	6	7	23	5
Bonnyrigg	10	1	2	7	9	36	5
Eastern Suburbs	10	1	1	8	8	43	4
Newcastle United	8	0	2	6	7	26	2

GRADE 14:
Sydney United 1 Wollongong Wolves 1
Newcastle United v Fairfield Washed Out
Sydney United 1 Bankstown City Cubs 2
Manly Warringah v Penrith Washed Out
Marconi Stallions 3 Eastern Suburbs 0
Canterbury Marrickville 0 Blacktown City 3
Sutherland Shire 2 Northern Spirit 1
Sydney Olympic 4 Macarthur Rams 0
Leichhardt Tigers 0 Central Coast Coasties 0
Parramatta Eagles 1 Wollongong Wolves 0
St George 3 Bonnyrigg White Eagles 1

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Marconi	10	8	1	1	27	8	25
Northern Spirit	9	8	0	1	52	5	24
Sydney Olympic	9	8	0	1	47	9	24
Blacktown City	9	7	2	0	33	4	23
Sutherland	10	6	2	2	23	11	20
Parramatta Eagles	9	5	3	1	15	5	18
Bankstown City	10	6	0	4	23	15	18
Sydney United	10	5	2	3	20	15	17
Newcastle United	8	5	1	2	27	12	16
Wollongong Wolves	9	4	2	3	16	9	14
Leichhardt	10	4	1	5	11	16	13
Bonnyrigg	10	4	0	6	17	36	12
Macarthur	10	3	2	5	12	17	11
St George	10	2	2	6	11	46	8
Penrith	9	1	4	4	8	22	7
Eastern Suburbs	10	2	1	7	10	33	7
Canterbury Marr	10	1	2	7	7	22	5
Central Coast	10	1	2	7	4	23	5
Manly Warringah	9	1	1	7	3	30	4
Fairfield Bulls	9	0	0	9	1	29	0

GRADE 15:
Newcastle United v Fairfield Washed Out
Sydney United 2 Bankstown City Cubs 0
Manly Warringah v Penrith Washed Out
Marconi Stallions 5 Eastern Suburbs 0
Canterbury Marrickville 0 Blacktown City 3
Sutherland Shire 0 Northern Spirit 1
Sydney Olympic 3 Macarthur Rams 1
Leichhardt Tigers 2 Central Coast Coasties 1
Parramatta Eagles 1 Wollongong Wolves 2
St George 0 Bonnyrigg White Eagles 0

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Marconi	10	10	0	0	35	6	30
Blacktown City	9	9	0	0	32	7	27
Northern Spirit	9	7	1	1	25	5	22
Sydney United	9	7	1	1	13	3	22
Sydney Olympic	9	5	0	4	16	15	15
Newcastle United	8	5	0	3	14	13	15
Central Coast	10	4	2	4	16	10	14
Parramatta Eagles	9	4	1	4	17	11	13
Bonnyrigg	10	3	4	3	15	10	13
Leichhardt	10	4	1	5	15	20	13
Wollongong Wolves	8	3	2	3	14	16	11
Manly Warringah	9	3	2	4	13	15	11
St George	9	2	4	3	4	10	10
Bankstown City	9	2	2	5	14	21	8
Penrith	9	2	2	5	7	14	8
Sutherland	10	2	2	6	7	15	8
Eastern Suburbs	10	2	1	7	11	35	7
Fairfield Bulls	9	1	2	6	10	21	5
C'bury Marrickville	10	1	2	7	8	22	5
Macarthur	10	0	5	5	10	27	5

GRADE 17:
Canterbury Marrickville 1 Fairfield Bulls 2
Leichhardt Tigers 2 Macarthur Rams 0
Newcastle United v Fairfield Washed Out
Sydney United 2 Bankstown City Cubs 0
Manly Warringah v Penrith Washed Out
Marconi Stallions 2 Eastern Suburbs 2
Canterbury Marrickville v Blacktown P/P
Sutherland Shire 2 Northern Spirit 6
Sydney Olympic 4 Macarthur Rams 0
Leichhardt Tigers 2 Central Coast Coasties 1
Parramatta Eagles 3 Wollongong Wolves 0
St George 1 Bonnyrigg White Eagles 0

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Northern Spirit	9	9	0	0	32	5	27
Parramatta Eagles	9	8	1	0	34	8	25
Sydney Olympic	9	8	0	1	26	6	24
Blacktown City	8	6	1	1	20	7	19
Marconi	10	6	1	3	18	12	19
Leichhardt	10	5	2	3	14	17	17
Fairfield Bulls	9	5	1	3	22	15	16
Sydney United	9	5	1	3	20	15	16
Canterbury Marr	9	5	1	3	18	13	16
Bonnyrigg	10	4	3	3	17	11	15
Sutherland	10	4	1	5	16	20	13
St George	9	4	1	4	11	19	13
Penrith	9	3	1	5	14	14	10
Wollongong Wolves	8	2	1	5	7	15	7
Central Coast	10	2	1	7	11	24	7
Manly Warringah	9	2	1	6	10	23	7
Bankstown City	9	1	2	6	6	16	5
Newcastle United	8	1	1	6	8	15	4
Eastern Suburbs	10	0	3	7	10	32	3
Macarthur	10	0	1	9	6	33	1

DIVISION ONE YOUTH LEAGUE
GRADE 13:
Hills United 2 Ku-Ring-Gai Association 2
Nepean Association 2 AC United 2
Mt Pritchard 1 Blacktown Association 2
Illawarra Lions 3 Ryde City 0
Hajduk Wanderers 1 Central Coast Lakers 0
Stanmore Hawks 1 Southern Branch 3

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Southern Branch	9	7	2	0	26	4	23
AC United	9	6	2	1	23	11	20
Hills United	9	5	3	1	21	8	18
Blacktown Assoc	9	6	0	3	20	12	18
Nepean Assoc	9	4	5	0	21	7	17
Illawarra Lions	9	4	2	3	16	18	14
Ku-Ring-Gai Assoc	9	3	4	2	12	10	13
Central Coast	9	2	3	4	12	16	9
Hajduk Wanderers	9	2	1	6	8	16	7
Stanmore	9	1	2	6	7	24	5
Mt Pritchard	9	1	1	7	10	25	4
Ryde City	9	0	1	8	2	27	1

GRADE 14:
Hills United 2 Ku-Ring-Gai Association 1
Nepean Association 2 AC United 2
Mt Pritchard 0 Blacktown Association 5
Illawarra Lions 0 Ryde City 1
Hajduk Wanderers 1 Central Coast Lakers 1
Stanmore Hawks 0 Southern Branch 4

GRADE 15:
Hills United 1 Ku-Ring-Gai Association 1
Nepean Association 0 AC United 2
Mt Pritchard 3 Blacktown Association 5
Illawarra Lions 3 Ryde City 1
Hajduk Wanderers 3 Central Coast Lakers 0
Stanmore Hawks 2 Southern Branch 7

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Southern Branch	9	7	0	2	27	10	21
Blacktown Assoc	9	5	3	1	27	15	18
AC United	9	5	1	3	18	13	16
Ku-Ring-Gai Assoc	9	4	3	2	13	9	15
Hajduk Wanderers	9	4	2	3	19	15	14
Illawarra Lions	9	4	2	3	14	14	14
Central Coast	9	4	2	3	11	11	14
Hills United	9	3	3	3	14	16	12
Nepean Assoc	9	3	2	4	11	13	11
Mt Pritchard	9	2	2	5	16	24	8
Stanmore	9	1	3	5	12	23	6
Ryde City	9	0	1	8	6	25	1

GRADE 16:
Hills United 0 Ku-Ring-Gai Association 0
Nepean Association 0 AC United 4
Mt Pritchard 4 Blacktown Association 1
Illawarra Lions 0 Ryde City 1
Hajduk Wanderers 2 Central Coast Lakers 4
Stanmore Hawks 0 Southern Branch 1

DIVISION TWO YOUTH LEAGUE
GRADE 13:
Schofield Scorpions 1 Parramatta City 3
Camden Tigers 11 Rockdale City Suns 0
Dulwich Hill 1 Mt Druitt Town Rangers 4
Hurstville City Minotaurs 5 MSC Liverpool 0
Hawkesbury City 4 Granville Association 1

GRADE 14:
Schofield Scorpions 3 Parramatta City 1
Camden Tigers 15 Rockdale City Suns 0
Dulwich Hill 1 Mt Druitt Town Rangers 2
Hurstville City Minotaurs 3 MSC Liverpool 3
Hawkesbury City 0 Granville Association 1

GRADE 15:
Schofield Scorpions 1 Parramatta City 0
Camden Tigers 2 Rockdale City Suns 0
Dulwich Hill 0 Mt Druitt Town Rangers 3
Hurstville City Minotaurs 3 MSC Liverpool 1
Hawkesbury City 3 Granville Association 0

GRADE 16:
Schofield Scorpions 2 Parramatta City 1
Camden Tigers 7 Rockdale City Suns 0
Dulwich Hill 1 Mt Druitt Town Rangers 4
Hurstville City Minotaurs 3 MSC Liverpool 6
Hawkesbury City 4 Granville Association 0

SUPER CADET LEAGUE
GRADE 11:
Sydney United 0 Wollongong Wolves 2
Canterbury Marrickville 0 Blacktown City 4
Sutherland Shire 0 Northern Spirit 4
Sydney Olympic 0 Macarthur Rams 0
Leichhardt Tigers 0 Central Coast Coasties 3
Parramatta Eagles 1 Wollongong Wolves 3
St George 5 Bonnyrigg White Eagles 1

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Blacktown City	8	8	0	0	46	3	24
Northern Spirit	9	7	1	1	33	6	22
Wollongong Wolves	8	7	1	0	23	5	22
Manly Warringah	7	6	1	0	17	0	19
St George	10	6	0	4	25	14	18
Macarthur	9	5	3	1	10	4	18
Sydney Olympic	7	5	2	0	13	3	17
Eastern Suburbs	8	5	0	3	16	15	15
Marconi	9	5	0	4	12	15	15
Parramatta Eagles	8	4	1	3	14	12	13
Sutherland	10	3	2	5	14	19	11
Central Coast	9	3	1	5	15	14	10
C'bury Marrickville	10	2	2	6	4	15	8
Leichhardt	9	2	1	6	9	16	7
Sydney United	8	2	1	5	7	18	7
Fairfield Bulls	9	2	1	6	12	24	7
Penrith	8	0	1	7	3	15	1
Bankstown City	9	0	1	8	1	31	1
Bonnyrigg	9	0	1	8	5	50	1

GRADE 12:
Sydney United 1 Wollongong Wolves 2
Canterbury Marrickville 0 Blacktown City 5
Sutherland Shire 1 Northern Spirit 1
Sydney Olympic 1 Macarthur Rams 0
Leichhardt Tigers 0 Central Coast Coasties 2
Parramatta Eagles 1 Wollongong Wolves 3
St George 2 Bonnyrigg White Eagles 0

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Marconi	9	9	0	0	22	3	27
Blacktown City	9	8	1	0	31	2	25
Northern Spirit	9	6	3	0	11	1	21
Sutherland	10	6	2	2	18	9	20
Sydney Olympic	7	5	1	1	16	5	16
St George	10	5	1	4	16	9	16
Central Coast	9	5	0	4	11	8	15
Wollongong Wolves	9	5	0	4	12	12	15
Leichhardt	9	4	2	3	10	13	14
Eastern Suburbs	8	4	1	3	9	11	13
Fairfield Bulls	9	4	0	5	8	13	12
Sydney United	8	3	2	3	11	11	11
Macarthur	9	2	2	5	7	13	8
Penrith	8	2	1	5	13	9	7
Manly Warringah	7	1	2	4	6	13	5
Bonnyrigg	9	1	2	6	7	19	5
Parramatta Eagles	8	0	4	4	5	13	4
Bankstown City	9	0	1	8	4	26	1
C'bury Marrickville	10	0	1	9	1	28	1

CADET LEAGUE DIVISION ONE
GRADE 11:
Central Coast Lakers 3 Hawkesbury City 0
Mt Pritchard 1 Stanmore Hawks 0

GRADE 12:
Central Coast Lakers 5 Hawkesbury City 1
Mt Pritchard 5 Stanmore Hawks 0

St. George Soccer Association 19th May
9A B Nth 1 Pol Yth 0, Cons Pt 2 Lugarno 0, Hurst ZSC 5 Minotaurs 0, Oat RSL 0 Carss Pk 1, S Souci 0 Rock Suns 0; 9B B Nth 1 For Rngs 3, Cons Pt 1 K/grove 2, Kogarah 9 Carss Pk 0, Pol Yth 5 Pens W 0; 9C ASOW 2 Peakhurst 1, B Nth 1 Rams RSL 1, Oat RSL 3 Cons Pt 2, S Souci 8 Pens W 0; 9D B Nth 0 Arn Aur 3, Lugarno 0 ASOW 1, Oat RSL 0 B Hills 1, Rams RSL 1 Cons Pt 0, S Souci Bye; 10A B Nth 4 S Souci 2, Oat RSL 3 Cons Pt 0, Pol Yth 1 For Rngs 2, Rams RSL 2 Minotaurs 2, Rock Suns 7 Lugarno 0; 10B ASOW 1 Pol Yth 2, Cons Pt 1 Pens W 3, Minotaurs 2 Peakhurst 2, K/grove 6 Oat RSL 0, Lugarno Bye; 10C B Hills 0 Carss Pk 2, B Nth(1) 0 Lugarno 0, B Nth(2) 0 Cons Pt 1, Pol Yth 0 Rock Suns 9, S Souci 2 Rams RSL 0; 10D Cons Pt 1 S Souci 0, For Rngs 1 SGOSC 1, K/grove 1 Peakhurst 1, Oat RSL 0 Kogarah 1, Pens W 1 Raiders 3; 11A Cons Pt 2 Carss Pk 1, Kogarah 2 Peakhurst 2, Pol Yth 1 S Souci 4; 11B For Rngs 4 B Nth 5, K/grove 1 ASOW 2, Kogarah 2 Cons Pt 3, Oat RSL 0 Pens W 0; 11C ASOW 0 Peakhurst 2, Pol Yth 1 Oat RSL 2, Rams RSL 6 Cons Pt 0, Raiders 1 Carss Pk 2, S Souci 0 B Nth 0; 11D Cons Pt 8 ASOW 2, Lugarno 0 Arn Aur 7, Pens W 3 B Nth 0; 12A ASOW 0 For Rngs 0, Cons Pt 0 Lugarno 2, K/grove 2 Pol Yth 0; 12B B Nth 0 B Hills 1, Carss Pk 0 Pol Yth 7, Kogarah 0 Pens W 2, SGOSC 2 Cons Pt 0, Oat RSL Bye; 12C B Hills 2 Raiders 3, Cons Pt 2 S Souci 2, For Rngs 3 Oat RSL 0, Lugarno 3 Rams RSL 0; 13A Cons Pt 1 Oat RSL 0, Dolls Pt 3 Kogarah 3, Pol Yth 1 For Rngs 1, S Souci 2 Pens W 1; 13B B Nth(1) 4 Oat RSL 1, B Nth(2) 3 Kogarah 1, Lugarno 5 Carss Pk 1, Peakhurst 6 Cons Pt 2; 14A Lugarno 0 Cons Pt 4, Pol Yth 2 Peakhurst 3, SGOSC 0 Kogarah 5; 14B Peakhurst 3 Oat RSL 0, Pens W 1 Cons Pt 2, Pol Yth 4 B Nth 0, Rams RSL 6 For Rngs 0; 15A ASOW 4 Pens W 2, Arn Aur 3 Oat RSL 3, B Nth(1) 2 Lugarno 0, B Nth(2) 1 For Rngs 0, Cons Pt 0 Rams RSL 2; 16A Cons Pt 1 Pens W 3, Kogarah 2 ASOW 2, Peakhurst 2 S Souci 4, Raiders Bye; 17A Arn Aur 6 Pens W 0, Arn Scots 7 Kogarah(1) 1, Carss Pk 3 Peakhurst 1, Kogarah(2) 3 Rams RSL 0; 19A Kogarah 1 ASOW 1, Monterey 6 Lugarno 0, Oat RSL 1 Pens W 1, Raiders 3 Cons Pt 1; PL.1 Arn Scots 0 ASOW 5, Cons Pt 0 Carlton 1, Kogarah 2 For Rngs 1, Oat RSL 1 Lugarno 4, Pens W 2 S Souci 1; PL.R Arn Scots 0 ASOW 2, Cons Pt 1 Carlton 2, Kogarah 3 For Rngs 1, Oat RSL 4 Lugarno 1, Pens W 1 S Souci 8; AAA ASOW 2 S Souci 0, Ansett 3 Pol Yth 5, Hurst ZSC 5 Cons Pt 1, Monterey 5 Dolls Pt 5, Pens W 1 SGOSC 4; AAAR ASOW 0 S Souci 2, Ansett 5 Pol Yth 1, Hurst ZSC 3 Cons Pt 2, Monterey 3 Dolls Pt 1, Pens W 0 SGOSC 7; AAB Cons Pt 4 SGOSC 0, Dolls Pt 5 For Rngs 0, Monterey Bye; AABR Cons Pt 0 SGOSC 2, Dolls Pt 5 For Rngs 1, Monterey Bye; AAC Carss Pk(1) 65 Minotaurs 1, K/grove 2 Peakhurst(2) 2, Peakhurst(1) 1 Carss Pk(2) 0, Raiders Bye; AAD Arn Scots 2 S Souci 0, B Hills 0 For Rngs 0, B Nth 1 Carss Pk 3; AAE B Hills 3 Pol Yth 1, Carss Pk 3 Cons Pt 0, For Rngs 5 Peakhurst (1) 0, K/grove 2 Peakhurst(2) 2; Sunday 20th May 2001 9A Cons Pt 1 B Nth 1, Hurst ZSC 3 Pol Yth 1, Oat RSL 0 Lugarno 0, Rock Suns 4 Minotaurs 0, S Souci 1 Carss Pk 1; 9D Lugarno 2 B Nth 2, Oat RSL 1 Arn Aur 2, Rams RSL 0 ASOW 0, S Souci 0 B Hills 5, Cons Pt Bye; 10A B Nth 2 Lugarno 2, Pol Yth 1 Oat RSL 2, Rams RSL 1 Cons Pt 0, Rock Suns WOF For Rngs LOF, S Souci 3 Minotaurs 0; 10B Cons Pt 1 ASOW 1, Minotaurs 0 Pol Yth 5, K/grove 2 Pens W 2, Lugarno 1 Peakhurst 8, Oat RSL Bye; 10C B Nth(1) 0 B Hills 1, B Nth(2) 0 Rock Suns 8, Cons Pt 1 Rams RSL 1, Pol Yth 3 Lugarno 1, S Souci 1 Carss Pk 3; 10D For Rngs 3 Cons Pt 0, K/grove 1 Kogarah 1, Oat RSL 0 SGOSC 2, Peakhurst 2 Raiders 0, Pens W 1 S Souci 0; 11C ASOW 0 Oat RSL 3, Peakhurst 2 Cons Pt 2, Pol Yth 1 Carss Pk 2, Rams RSL 0 B Nth 0, Raiders 0 S Souci 3; 12B Carss Pk 0 B Hills 7, Kogarah 2 Cons Pt 2, Oat RSL 6 Pol Yth 1, SGOSC 0 B Nth 1; 15A ASOW 0 Oat RSL 1, B Nth(1) 1 Arn Aur 4, B Nth(2) Rams RSL 3, Cons Pt 0 Lugarno 2, For Rngs 1 Pens W 3; AAB For Rngs 2 SGOSC 2, Monterey 1 Cons Pt 6, Dolls Pt Bye; AABR For Rngs 0 SGOSC 3, Monterey 2 Cons Pt 4, Dolls Pt Bye; 14 Girls B Nth 0 Oat RSL(1) 1, Oat RSL(2) 3 Rams RSL(1) 2, Rams RSL Bye; 16 ASOW 2 Pol Yth(1) 2, B Nth 1 Cons Pt 2, Pol Yth(2) 2 Kogarah 0, Oat RSL Bye; S.W. ASOW 2 SGOSC 3, For Rngs 0 Rams RSL 5, Minotaurs 4 Peakhurst 0, Kogarah 2 Oat RSL 0, S Souci 4 Lugarno 4; O/35A ASOW 0 Monterey(2), Arn Scots 1 Brighton (1) 1, Oat RSL 2 Brighton(2) 0, S Souci 1 Monterey(1) 1; O/35B Carss Pk 3 Raiders 1, Cons Pt 0 Rams RSL 2, For Rngs 2 Oat RSL 2, K/grove 0 Lugarno 5, S Souci 2 Kogarah 0;

Western Premier League
Lithgow City Rangers v Orana P/P
Orange CYMS v Canobolas Rangers 1-3
Orange Waratah v Dubbo W'side P/P
East Dubbo United v Dubbo SASS P/P
Blayney Jouniors v Dubbo SASS P/P
Bathurst 75 (Bye)

Reserve Grade
Lithgow City Rangers v Orana 2-10
Orange CYMS v Canobolas Rangers 1-4
Orange Waratah v Dubbo W'side Postponed
East Dubbo United v Dubbo SASS P/P
Blayney Juniors v Dubbo SASS Postponed
Bathurst 75 (Bye)

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Wolves in shock as FIFA put off World Club Championship until 2003

By Trevor Huggins

FIFA has postponed the 2001 World Club Championship, due to kick off in Spain at the end of July, until 2003, officials said on Friday.

FIFA blamed financial problems and a congested fixture list for the postponement which is a major embarrassment for world soccer's ruling body and its president Sepp Blatter.

The tournament, which FIFA had been planning to extend from 12 to 16 teams, was set for only its second edition in Spain.

It would have involved clubs who have won major championships in FIFA's six continental confederations plus a host team, Deportivo Coruna.

Blatter said: "The decision not to go ahead with this event as scheduled has been taken on account of various factors."

FIFA's statement identified three main reasons for the setback.

It said: "The period during which the competition was to be staged is particularly inconvenient from the perspective of national and international fixtures (national leagues and Champions League qualifiers are in progress).

"The economic crises affecting the countries of some of the participating clubs further heighten existing commercial difficulties."

The third hurdle was the financial problems of ISL Worldwide, which was responsible for marketing major FIFA tournaments including the World Cup in 2002.

FIFA said on Thursday it had terminated its marketing agreement with ISL Worldwide after French media group Vivendi ended talks on a takeover of ISL's troubled parent company ISMM.

On Friday, FIFA said: "The current commercial market has been considerably disrupted by the problems confronting ISL/ISMM.

This has left FIFA's marketing partner for the event, Traffic, confronted by major difficulties in selling the 2001 edition to sponsors and broadcasters."

FIFA added: "With the 12-team tournament just over two months away and given the fact that FIFA will have to take on additional responsibilities due to the imminent bankruptcy of ISL/ISMM the Emergency Committee also felt that it was essential for FIFA to readjust its focus to these issues."

FIFA spokesman Andreas Herren said the impending bankruptcy of ISL had been the final straw.

"If you are already facing two difficulties it would be too much to take on another," he said.

FIFA said it had discussed the matter with the tournament's would-be hosts, the Spanish Football Federation.

The inaugural club championship, won by Brazil's Corinthians, took place in January last year in Brazil and the event in Spain was due to take place from July 28 to August 12.

Clubs taking part would have included Argentina's Boca Juniors, Palmeiras of Brazil and Saudi Arabia's Al-Hilal.

Prize money totalled 40 million dollars with the winners taking home eight million.

FIFA's eight-member emergency committee made the decision to postpone the event through correspondence and sent their confirmation in writing to the world body's Zurich headquarters.

"The members were all briefed and had all the necessary information including the details of the ISL decision as soon as it became available," said Herren.

"They were given a straight question -- go ahead or postpone given all the information."

And the financial future of Wollongong Wolves has been jeopardised by FIFA's decision to suddenly cancel the championship.

The Wollongong Wolves, who qualified for the lucrative event by winning the Oceania club title, said FIFA's decision would have a major impact on their future plans.

The club's CEO Graeme Haney said the Wolves had been relying on the guaranteed purse of US$2.7 million just for competing in the championships.

"This is a lot of money to us and would have really helped set the club up financially," Haney said.

"A lot of our plans and progress was tied to this tournament and so we're going to have to review our plans.

"We were planning to share most of the money among our players but the whole club was going to benefit and it really is a missed opportunity."

Haney said the Wolves had still not been contacted by FIFA and only learnt of the decision by journalists.

"We're still waiting to hear something official," he said.

"We contacted Soccer Australia and Oceania and they hadn't been told anything either so we really don't know what's happening.

"We're hoping the postponement means we will still represent Oceania in 2003 but we just don't know yet."

FIFA's decision to postpone the World Club Championship could ultimately cost FIFA president Sepp Blatter (pictured) his job.

"In one sense, the fact the championship has had to be called off is not such a big issue, but the competition stood as one of the pillars of Mr Blatter's presidency," said our source in Geneva.

"A lot of people involved in it are going to be very, very upset with him that it is not now taking place.

"This competition began only last year and was seen as a flagship, not so much for the major clubs, but for the smaller clubs from the smaller FIFA confederations to play a bigger part on the world stage and get a slice of FIFA's financial pie.

"Its cancellation is a serious setback for FIFA and for the president himself. It was one of the symbols of his presidency and I think the repercussions could cost him his presidency next year."

France pick experimental Cup squad

WORLD champions France, without their star players based in Italy and Spain, have named an experimental squad for next month's Confederations Cup in South Korea and Japan.

Manager Roger Lemerre -- minus first-choice internationals like Zinedine Zidane, Fabien Barthez, Lilian Thuram, Vincent Candela and David Trezeguet -- has been forced to include some of his country's leading young prospects in the 23-man squad.

Goalkeeper Mickael Landreau and playmaker Eric Carriere, following the success of their club Nantes in the French first division, earn their first call-ups while Leeds United's Olivier Dacourt, Olympique Marseille's Zoumana [illegible] and Lyon's Jeremy Brechet were also selected.

"If I could have had the Italians or the Spaniards, I would have taken them. France's A team is not threatened," Lemerre said.

"But I hope that, back from the Confederations Cup, competition within the squad will be harder," he added.

In the absence of Barthez, Nantes' Landreau, Ulrich Rame of Bordeaux and Lyon's Gregory Coupet will compete for the number two goalkeeper position.

"It was better to give Fabien a break, but I know what he's worth. Rame is confirmed as number two, but I wanted to see Landreau and Coupet at work," Lemerre said.

In defence, the absence of Thuram, Candela and the injured Philippe Christanval has allowed Lemerre to pick Camara and Brechet.

"I want to see how they fare in a two-week competition. I opted for youth," he said.

Dacourt, helped by his fine season with Leeds, has finally been elevated to the French senior squad.

"He's a first-choice player at Leeds, I know him well. His presence is not a surprise," Lemerre said.